



# GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE USE OF AXES

Thank you for purchasing a Sealey product. Manufactured to a high standard, this product will, if used according to these instructions, and properly maintained, give you years of trouble free performance.



Refer to instruction manual



Wear eye protection

**IMPORTANT:** PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. NOTE THE SAFE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, WARNINGS & CAUTIONS. USE THE PRODUCT CORRECTLY AND WITH CARE FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS INTENDED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY CAUSE DAMAGE AND/OR PERSONAL INJURY AND WILL INVALIDATE THE WARRANTY. KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS SAFE FOR FUTURE USE.

## 1. GENERAL SAFETY

Perform a risk assessment before using the axe. Ensure the area is clean and well lit. Always wear appropriate clothing, eye protection and footwear when using an axe. Additional PPE may be required depending on the task at hand. **DO NOT** use this product if you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. Be aware of the presence of other personnel in the working area.

## 2. AXE TYPE

Axes and hatches described in the standard are designed for cutting and chopping wood. Other uses could be dangerous. Never use an axe or hatchet as a wedge or maul and never use as a hammer, for example, to drive a wedge. Always select a suitable tool, of the appropriate type, size and weight, for the job concerned. See table below.

TYPE OF AXE	DESCRIPTION	USE
FELLING AXE	A large axe with long handle and broad, heavy blade.	Making clean cuts through wood.
SPLITTING MAUL	A heavy axe with a short handle and thick, wedge-shaped blade.	Splitting wood.
HATCHET	A small, light axe designed to be used with one hand.	Often used for camping, hiking, and bushcraft.
CARPENTER'S AXE	A medium-size axe with a long handle.	Used for a variety of woodworking tasks, such as chopping, splitting, and carving
MATTOCK/PICKAXE	An axe with a broad blade on one end of the head and a pick or axe on the other.	The blade is used for digging and chopping, while the pick or axe is used for breaking up hard ground or roots.

## 3. WEAR SAFETY GOGGLES

Always wear safety glasses when using an axe or hatchet. This is especially important as wood can chip and fly.

## 4. STRIKING TECHNIQUE

It is essential for safety that operators are trained in the relevant skills. Always adopt a firm stance or position when using an axe or hatchet. Ensure you grip the tool and have control at all times. Always strike squarely and avoid glancing blows.

## 5. INSPECT BEFORE USE

Examine hatchets and axes before each use for any sign of damage to either handle or head and for any looseness of the handle or shaft. Where damage has occurred, remedial action should be taken, e.g. re-shafting, re-sharpening or, if necessary replacement of the complete tool.

## 6. STORAGE

Store tools in a cool dry place and in a clean condition. Where either complete tools or replacement handles are stored in bulk, store them in a cool dry place, preferably with humidity control. Do not expose them to bright sunlight and place tools or handles in excess of 1m length horizontally in racks to avoid warping. Use stock in rotation according to age, the oldest being used first. Always take care to provide cutting edge protection when the tool is not in use.

## 7. INSPECT REGULARLY

Inspect axes and hatchets regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose. A blunt axe can be dangerous. If in doubt, seek specialist advise or contact the manufacturer.

## 8. AVOID OVERHEATING WHEN SHARPENING

Avoid overheating when re-sharpening an axe or hatchet. Excess heat will ruin the temper of the hardened zone. Always seek specialist advise if in doubt.



### ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Recycle unwanted materials instead of disposing of them as waste. All tools, accessories and packaging should be sorted, taken to a recycling centre and disposed of in a manner which is compatible with the environment. When the product becomes completely unserviceable and requires disposal, drain any fluids (if applicable) into approved containers and dispose of the product and fluids according to local regulations.



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**Note:** It is our policy to continually improve products and as such we reserve the right to alter data, specifications and component parts without prior notice.

**Important:** No Liability is accepted for incorrect use of this product.

**Warranty:** This product comes with a lifetime guarantee. Proof of purchase is required for any claim.

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