



Canada's Building Centre®

Project Of The Month

WORKSHOP TOOLS YOU NEED



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: WORKSHOP TOOLS

Setting up a home workshop

Setting up a home workshop is a project in itself. With a bit of planning, creating a safe space is fairly easy and straightforward. You will need an area large enough for the scope of your DIY projects. In the beginning you may not need that much space but as you take on larger projects, you could require more room. As your skills improve, the more tools you'll acquire and you'll need somewhere to store them. Keeping your workshop well organized with sensible storage is another essential. You want to be able to find any tool easily and at the moment you need it. You will need shelving for tool storage as well as a place to store unused lumber. To keep things tidy, consider drawers for smaller tools and essentials. From a safety perspective, your space should be well lit with task lighting and you should have enough electrical outlets to reduce the need for extension cords. How you set up your workshop will depend on the projects you will be working on and the space you've got available. Have questions? Talk to us about workshop tool and storage options. We can also give you tips on how to extend your work area by setting up a temporary work space using plywood and saw horses.



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What's new in power tools?

Current power tool trends are continuing in the cordless direction and this is made possible by innovative Li-ion battery technology. Today's battery packs have larger or more cells and have increasingly greater charging capacity. Better batteries mean better voltage. Better voltage means better torque. This has allowed brands to expand their cordless lineup as well as designing higher powered tools.

Lighter, smaller

User comfort and convenience is also becoming a big selling point. With batteries packing more power, tools can be engineered to be smaller and thus lighter. Compact tools are easier on the back and shoulders but can still provide a powerful torque.

Brushless motor tech

Brushless motors are not a new invention but are becoming very popular in cordless power tools. This old technology was first used in industrial applications in the 1960s and Makita started using it in 2009 in a brushless three-speed impact driver. To put it very simply, brushless motors use a small circuit board instead of brushes and a commutator to deliver energy. This makes for a more efficient and durable tool that has

the ability to adjust power according to the task. For example, when you drive a screw into a soft surface, a brushless motor will sense the lack of resistance and will only use the power it needs from the battery. A brushed motor will run as fast as it can to drive that screw into the soft surface using maximum power. For this reason, brushless power tools are often called "smart" tools. A big downside is cost. Currently, brushless power tools are more expensive because of the added design and construction cost. High-performing and high-priced Li-ion batteries are specifically matched to support the demands of a brushless motor which pushes the price up further.

Corded tools

It wasn't that long ago that there was a marked difference between corded and cordless power tools. Limited power and constant recharging were the biggest drawbacks to cordless tools. But with modern technology, these factors are becoming less and less. Choosing one over the other is a personal choice. While there's no denying that cordless tools are more convenient, corded tools have an endless power supply and can be less expensive.

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10 next level tools for the advanced DIYer



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10 Router
Used to cut fancy edges, patterns, and grooves. Also used to hollow out an area in wood, metal, or plastic. Most often used for shelving, cabinetry and moulding.

1 Reciprocating saw

This saw has a forward and backward cutting motion and can cut through almost anything depending on the blade. It is smaller than most heavy duty saws so it can reach difficult areas including overhead. This is a great tool for rough cuts on wood and metal. Ideal for demolition.

2 Sanders

As the scope of your DIY projects grows, you will need different sanders for different jobs. A random orbital sander is a good all-purpose sander but you may want a belt sander for large sanding jobs. For fine finishing work and the smoothest surface possible, use a finishing sander.

3 Saw horses

Fixed height saw horses are a staple in every workshop as a necessary tool when space is limited or you need extra support. Advanced designs have adjustable height and multi-purpose capabilities including built in clamping systems, bench vise and mitre saw stand.

4 Clamps

Ask a hundred DIYers how many clamps you need and you'll get a hundred different answers. Most agree that your collection should include bar clamps, pipe clamps and at least one strap clamp. The sizes depend on the projects you work and should include small and large.

5 Voltage tester

If you are working on projects that involve electricity, for safety you'll need a voltage tester. Basic testers will detect whether or not voltage is present while more advanced multimeters will tell you the amount of voltage present. These more complex models have a learning curve to understand their functions.

6 Wet/dry vacuum

One thing you'll have for almost every DIY project is a big mess. A wet/dry vac will clean it all up. It is intended for heavy duty cleaning jobs and has the ability to pick up large debris from wet or dry surfaces. Motors are generally more powerful than an conventional vacuum.

7 Flush cut saw

This hand saw for wood is just what the name says, it will give you a precise cross-cut, flush to the surface. Great for cutting dowels, tenons and joints. The cutting blade is flexible and has teeth on both sides. This allows the cutting blade to lie flat and cut the dowel off very close to the surface.

8 Levels

Most DIYers will have a torpedo level for small jobs and a two-foot level for larger jobs. Consider adding a four-foot or an eight-foot level for jobs that need precision. A handy line level is hung from a taut string stretched between two points and is invaluable for outdoor work.

9 Table saw

This is an easy to use saw that cuts straight lines in large pieces of wood with precision. They can make straight cuts or angled cuts and there is no limit to the length of the cut they can make. They are available in large stationary models or smaller portable versions.

Tool maintenance

Extend the lifespan of power and hand tools with proper maintenance and smart storage. Buying new tools is an investment, so it's important to perform regular maintenance to keep them in good working condition and reduce unnecessary expenses. For both power and hand tools, make it a habit to wipe down any tools you've used with a rag at the end of each day to remove dirt and grime.

Keeping rust off hand tools is one of the most beneficial things you can do to keep them in good condition. Occasionally wipe down with WD40 and remove all excess oil especially in hand tools with moving parts. You can also place silica gel packs in your toolbox to absorb any moisture. Keeping hand tools dry and clean will help prevent rust.

Power tools should be unplugged before cleaning. Check the manufacturer's manual for specific cleaning instructions. From the first time you use a power tool, it starts to wear so lubricating moving parts can reduce wear and help prevent corrosion. Regularly do a visual check of power tools for damage and faults that could cause their performance to drop over time. If a tool fails, it may simply require a replacement part. Dull or blunt blades and bits put stress on the tool's motor as it works harder to complete the job. Regularly sharpening blades and bits will guarantee that they are working efficiently. Another preventative measure is to let tools cool down after you have pushed them to their limits.

Make use of the original carry cases which are designed to protect power tools from their environment.

If you have invested in cordless power tools, store your rechargeable batteries in a cool and dry environment in their original case or holder. Using the battery regularly and charging it completely can extend battery life. Try to never let the battery run out completely and keep them away from heat. Always have a backup battery fully charged and ready to go.

Having a dehumidifier in your workshop will greatly reduce moisture in the air which will be a benefit to all your tools as well as any lumber you are storing. For more tool maintenance tips and expert advice, head to your local TIMBER MART.



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Richelieu

Enhanced mobility!



To free up space at work or keep things tidy at the end of the day, you need the right accessories.

Richelieu's retractable workbench caster kit makes it easy to move your work table or bench around. Simply push down on each foot pedal to raise your work table or bench from the floor by 1-1/16" (27 mm) and move to another spot. Then simply lift the pedals to ensure the table or bench settles into place.

The 2-3/8" (61-mm) diameter casters are made from thermoplastic rubber and can pivot 360° on their ball bearings for ease of use in the most challenging places. They ensure smooth and soft operation that leaves no marks. They can be used on concrete, steel, wood, ceramic, hardwood and laminate.

Each caster's load capacity is 143 lb. (65 kg) for a total of 572 lb. (260 kg) for the four-caster kit. Assembly hardware and instructions included. To find out more, contact your **TIMBER MART** dealer.



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Battery adapter

Allows most DeWalt 18V tools to run on powerful 20V lithium ion batteries. Adapter slides into the tool and the battery hooks onto the adapter. Battery and charger sold separately. O#3463247



onward

Adjust-A-Strap

A handy bungee cord with six holes for quick, on-the-fly adjustments. Provides up to seven different lengths. Able to stretch to two times its length. Perfect for vehicles or the workshop. #7232OBC

onward

Six arm Adjust-A-Strap

Six Adjust-A-Straps attached to a metal centre ring. Each arm can stretch to two times its length. Perfect solution for securing cargo. Capable of covering a full-size truck bed. #7234BRBC



Inflatable shim

Use for leveling, lifting or positioning heavy objects like appliances, doors, cabinets, countertops and furniture. It gives the user infinite adjusting possibilities. 300 lb. lifting capacity. O#8027229



Drill bit sharpener

Dull drill bits can regain a sharp cutting edge with this sharpener. All you have to do is plug in the sharpener, insert drill bits into the designed slots and let the sharpener do the work. The result is a sharp cutting drill bit. O#4018172



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Handy tools and gadgets

Any DIYer will appreciate these useful tools worthy of a spot in any well-equipped workshop.



onward

Shock Strap tie-down

This ratcheting shock absorbing tie-down soaks up movement from road vibrations so your load stays secure. Built-in shocks absorb impact to ensure constant tension, even if your load shifts. #77707BC/9BC



Foam dispensing gun

Provides greater flow control so you can apply foam precisely where it's needed and are able to access to hard-to-reach areas. Prevents dripping and allows you to save foam if the job requires less than a full can. O#6345755



Auto leveling laser with stud sensor

Two tools in one to simplify hanging and mounting projects. Levels automatically for precise results. Projects horizontal level line while stud sensor detects wood and metal studs plus live A/C wires. O#9927252



Charger radio

Can run off of and charge DeWalt slide pack battery packs including 12V, 20V and FlexVolt at 3 amps when plugged into an AC outlet. Includes a USB charging port for convenient device charging. O#3888724

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How to store scrap lumber

If you're like most DIYers, you'll have leftover lumber from previous projects. And if you're like most DIYers, you'll keep all but the smallest pieces because they could come in handy. A collection of lumber can quickly get out of control so you'll need good storage to keep it from becoming an unruly mess. Open plastic bins are a great way to store smaller scraps of lumber and if you have a lot, you can organize by size. For longer pieces of lumber, storing it horizontally will keep it straight and flat. While you may not have space on the floor of your workshop, you may have it on your walls as shown in the picture above. Use heavy duty brackets that can handle heavy loads. Sheet goods are a little trickier to store because of their size. A good DIY project is to create a rack with slats to vertically store odd sizes of sheet goods (much the same way you store cookie sheets in the kitchen). Keeping your scrap lumber off the floor will keep it away from moisture which could cause mould or rot.



Protect your floors

Workshop and garage floors take a beating and the best way to protect them is with epoxy paint. Rust-Oleum's EpoxyShield is a 2-part floor coating that provides a tough surface ready for tough jobs. This 2-part epoxy is five times stronger than 1-part epoxy and applies in one easy coat. It has excellent adhesion, is super durable and resists peeling, cracking and fading. It will stand up to the rigors of your workshop or garage with excellent impact, stain and abrasion resistance. Can be finished in solid colour or add decorative colour chips for a speckled finish. Colours available are grey or tan. This high-performance floor coating will protect your workshop floor and allow for easy cleanup.



[Click here for Rust-Oleum® EPOXYSHIELD® Garage Floor Coating how-to video.](#)



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DIY kids

Children are eager to help with DIY projects around the house and getting tools into their hands early and regularly is the best way to develop DIY skills they will have for a lifetime

Teaching children basic DIY skills at a young age can be highly beneficial in helping them to develop practical, creative and critical thinking skills. Don't forget to stress the importance of safety when using tools and always supervise the project at hand. A great place to start is with a hammer and nails, which can also help improve hand-eye coordination. Have them hammer assorted sized nails into a scrap piece of wood. Show them how to use a hand saw and have them saw a piece of foam core board then graduate to a scrap piece of soft wood. As they grow in confidence, slowly introduce older kids to power tools, a drill is a good place to start. Have them drill several screws into a soft surface like scrap drywall. Once they have the feel of a power drill, let them drill into soft wood. When they have more or less mastered a few basic skills, start a bigger project like a birdhouse or toolbox. Let them do the work and be open to answering any questions they have. Teach them the names of tools you use and explain the basic mechanics behind how they work. Also teach them basic DIY rules of thumb like "measure twice, cut once". Children learn by watching, so let them help you fix things around the house. The more they practice, the sooner you'll have an extra helping hand.



Kid's first toolbox

If your kids are starting to have an interest in helping out with DIY projects around the house, reward them with their first toolbox. Start with the toolbox itself, and as they develop their skills, gradually grow their tool collection. Include a couple of toolbox essentials, such as a hammer, screwdriver and a tape measure. As they get older and are mature enough to assist you with larger DIY projects, buy them their first power tool. A cordless drill is a great choice. Ensure that they know how to use all of their tools safely and correctly, and that they understand the risks involved. Head into TIMBER MART for kid-friendly toolboxes and tools, and start growing their kit today.



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Building a workshop: Selecting the right wood glue

Choosing the right wood glue can take the construction of your own workshop to the next level. From furniture building, woodworking and cabinetry making to even assembling outdoor projects, wood glue is versatile, and can be a critical part of the success and durability of your project.

While wood is relatively easy to work with, with its soft, porous surface that makes it easy to join pieces together with nails and screws, creating a truly permanent, strong chemical bond using the right wood glue will ensure long-term durability of your project. Read on to learn some important considerations for selecting the right wood glue for your project.

- **PVA (poly-vinyl acetate) glue** is a great and popular choice for many basic woodworking projects due to its ease of use, high tack yet ability to be re-positioned as you clamp, non-toxicity and strong, flexible bonds. It also cleans up easily with water and comes in special varieties depending on your application needs, such as how quickly you need the glue to set, application temperature, and if you are working indoors or outdoors.
- **Polyurethane glue** is very durable and cures in the presence of water. It bonds well to wood and many other materials and is waterproof. Because of this, it is a great choice for outdoor applications, and places where you need a very strong, tight bond.
- **Cyanoacrylate, or super glue**, bonds in a matter of seconds at room temperature, and is handy for quick repairs, like a split in a workpiece or chipped furniture components. It can bond dissimilar materials, and once cured, creates a rigid bond.
- **Epoxy resin** is a two-component material, consisting of a resin and a hardener that cures within hours after using it on a wooden surface. It can be cut, ground, and polished for different effects, and its range of options from low to high viscosity make it an ideal choice for use on wood and filling in gaps and cracks.



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