

# TETHERED TOOLS – CONSTRUCTION KNOWLEDGE FOR DESIGNERS

Tethering tools at high level has become common throughout certain construction and maintenance sites. The technology ensures that the tethered tool does not lose integrity and that even the most robust and awkward tool can be securely tied without restriction on its use.

Spanners falling from height is a far more regular occurrence than is reported. Similarly scaffolders often drop spanners during their work process and even if there are other robust control measures such as netting the loss of tools at height is unnecessary and dangerous.

This particular Safe System of work is of great benefit when working in densely populated areas, particularly city centres or in existing or populated buildings such as airports or shopping centres. Some tools such as battery operated drills and mag drills appear to be too cumbersome to warrant tethering but there are proprietary solutions to ensuring that all tools can be secured.

## Key Points

- Falling objects however small pose a serious threat on site.
- Preventing objects from falling reduces serious accidents and saves lives.
- Lanyards should be a suitable size which enables easy use whilst not posing a trip hazard. Retractable lanyards are available.
- Tethering tools when working at height is a common sense safety solution.
- Designers need to be aware of such methods but where possible design fixings that require minimal use of tools at high level.



Hand Strap



Retractable Lanyard



Typical Tool Belt



Socket with Lanyard



Hammer with Eye Ring