



Canada's **Building** Centre®

Project Of The Month

WORKSHOP

TOOLS YOU NEED

A home workshop is more than a collection of tools. It's a creative and functional place where home improvement projects begin. When properly designed and organized, you can find the right tools when you need them and easily move forward with your DIY projects.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH: WORKSHOP



Canada's Building Centre

The home workshop

The longer you live in your home, the more tools you tend to acquire. A dedicated workshop space not only provides a place to store these tools but also gives you a safe area to complete DIY projects big and small. There are many things to consider when setting up a workshop and location is probably the first. Shed, garage or a corner of the basement are the most popular locations. Next is a strong, durable workbench which will be the main work surface for the majority of your DIY projects. Whether you decide to buy or build it yourself, make sure it is large enough and tough enough to withstand the inevitable abuse you are going to put it through. Task lighting and plenty of electrical outlets are another must for your workshop. From a safety perspective, your space should be well lit and you should have enough electrical outlets to reduce the need for extension cords. There are many ways to store your tools and it depends a lot on your personal preference. Some people like tools put away in drawers, others like them hung in plain sight and easy to get to. The types of tools you need really depends on the sort of projects you will be undertaking. There are essential hand and power tools for the basic maintenance of your home and then there are more specialized tools. Over time and as your DIY skills improve, you will continually add tools to your collection.

The right tools always make the job easier and TIMBER MART has the tools to complete your DIY projects. We can also give you tips on how to use them effectively.

Essential power tools

When it comes to building a collection of power tools, there are hundreds of different, task-specific tools to choose from. And each of these tools has a sub-category of sizes, functions and options, which can make anybody's head spin. But out of all these, there are certain tools that are the basic foundation in any home workshop and are very versatile for the average DIY-er. Below is a list of these tools which will get you through most of your DIY projects.

Cordless drill/driver Good for drilling holes and driving fasteners like screws and bolts. This is easily the most used power tool and is crucial for many projects. It's the tool you'll rely on in different locations so going cordless will allow the convenience of portability. There are more powerful drills available but they are not quite as versatile as the drill/driver.

Circular saw A circular saw is good for fast and precise straight cuts across a board or along the board's length. They are usually classified by the diameter of their blades with the most common being 7-1/4 inches. A cordless saw is convenient when working in areas where extension cords are difficult whereas a corded saw is better suited for tough cutting jobs.

Palm sander Also called sheet sanders, they are easy to use and their smaller size means they're good for working with precision and without leaving sanding marks. You can use regular sandpaper and it uses a clamp system to hold the sandpaper tightly as you work. Available in half sheet size or the smaller, lighter weight quarter sheet size.

Jig saw This is the only tool that allows you to cut curves which makes it invaluable for the home workshop. Choose a standard jig saw which has a blade that moves up and down or an orbital jig saw which has a blade that moves in a slightly elliptical motion allowing for smoother cuts. A jig saw is also capable of making bevel cuts and many have the option to angle for just that purpose.

Mitre saw This is a specialized saw that makes fast angled cuts for trim and more. There are 3 common types: compound, dual compound and sliding. Compound miter saw tilts in one direction and cut angles on two planes in one pass; dual compound miter saw functions like a compound miter saw and can tilt in two directions; sliding compound miter saw has all the versatility of a compound miter saw plus you can move the blade forward and backward to increase the length of the cut.

Cut the cord?

This is a personal choice. While there's no denying that cordless tools are more convenient, corded tools can be more powerful. Compare the power of each and decide which is more important to you. Power is measured by amps on corded tools and volts on cordless tools. The higher the amps or volts, the more powerful the tool. Also note that many power tools have interchangeable batteries that allow you to use the same battery in multiple tools. This could be something to look for if you're collecting tools by the same brand.



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: WORKSHOP



Essential hand tools

The hand tools in your workshop will depend on the DIY projects you tackle and your level of experience. There are, however, a basic set of hand tools that are used for almost every home improvement project. Below is a list of these tools that should be the foundation for any basic workshop. Unlike power tools, most hand tools are inexpensive and it's easy to build a collection. Keep in mind that quality can vary so spending a bit more can increase the tool's longevity.

Tape measure Available in a variety of lengths and blade widths. The longer the tape measure, the heavier and unwieldy it will be. A wider blade will give you a longer stand-out.

Level Length is particularly important with levels. It's a good idea to have 2 different lengths in your workshop, a small torpedo level that can fit in a tool belt and a longer version, at least 18-inches. The longer version will do double duty as a straight edge.

Hammer Available in different styles the most common being a claw hammer. Choosing a weight is a personal choice so do a test drive and see how the different weights feel. Rubber mallets are also useful for fitting lumber without damaging the surface.

Screwdrivers Every workshop needs a set of Phillips (cross), slot (straight) and Robertson (square) screwdrivers and in a variety of sizes. Choose the colour of the handle carefully as this is how you will differentiate them from each other.

Wrenches An adjustable wrench in a couple sizes, a set of open ended wrenches in incremental sizes and a set of socket wrenches will cover most of your wrench needs.

Utility knife There are many styles and sizes, choose from fixed, retractable or breakaway blades. This will be one of your most indispensable tools.

Hand saw It is easy to get overwhelmed by the number of different specialty saws to choose from. These 3 basic saws are a good place to start: cross cut saw for cutting wood, coping saw for intricate cuts and hack saw for cutting metal.

Clamps Trigger clamps are the most common and are available in a variety of sizes. While you can never have too many clamps, keeping 4 of one size on hand will be helpful.

Chisels They come in different widths. Because you will need more than one size, it's a good idea to have at least a 3-piece set.

Pliers No one pair of pliers can do everything so it's a good idea to have a variety. The most common 3 are curved-jaw, needle-nose and cutter.

Every one of the tools listed here has many, many variations for specific uses. If you are unsure about a tool you need for your DIY project, ask a TIMBER MART Associate. We have the tools you need.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH: WORKSHOP



Canada's Building Centre

The humble toolbox



Toolboxes have been around for decades and mostly in the traditional box shape. Today, they are available in a variety of forms to fit your every DIY need. Whether you are looking for portability or permanent storage, TIMBER MART offers a wide range of innovative toolbox options for easy tool storage.



Box This is the standard of tool storage for projects outside your workshop. Usually made from plastic or steel, some offer a removable tray for smaller items while others have a cantilevered tray design. Sizes vary greatly so choose one that will fit the amount of tools you want to carry. Look for a good latching system that won't fail.



Bucket or bag These can conveniently carry more tools than the typical box. Pocket storage on the outside allows you to easily see the tool you are looking for. The more pockets, the better. The best tool buckets and tool bags have plenty of storage options. Carrying a lot of tools can be heavy so look for lightweight options.



Rolling Wheeled toolboxes with extendable handles make it easier to move a lot of heavy tools at once. Some models are single compartmented units while others are separate stacking boxes. Look for easy maneuvering, sturdy construction and durable wheels. Because you will be transporting a lot of tools, weight is also a consideration.



Tool chest These are large steel cabinets designed for permanent storage in the workshop. Locking casters allow for mobility when you need it. Look for large, deep drawers that fully extend. Options include drawer liners to prevent tools from sliding around and tool organizing trays. If space is an issue look for stackable models.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH: WORKSHOP



Choose a workbench that's right for you

Having a large, level surface is critical for the success of your project and a good workbench can serve as a safe and sturdy workspace no matter what your skill level. Workbenches are usually a simple design so building your own from scratch can be a fairly easy weekend DIY project. If you doubt your skills, one option is to purchase specific workbench connector hardware where you add your own lumber, whereas another option is to purchase a completely ready-made workbench. Note that a workbench you build yourself can be customized to suit your exact needs with storage and the ability to attach a new piece of equipment. A ready-made workbench has more limitations. The size of your workbench will be determined by the size available in your workshop and if you want your workbench against a wall or floating in the middle of the space. The most common worktop surface is wood but laminate can also be used. Metal surfaces tend to be found mostly on steel ready-made workbenches. All can take a beating but laminate and metal tend to clean up easier. Wood workbenches tend to absorb power tool vibration while steel workbenches can vibrate. Common accessories for workbenches are lockable castors, a powerstrip and a built-in vise. Once you have your workbench established, you can trick it out with storage solutions like shelving, pegboard and rolling tool caddies. Having tools close at hand is one of the most important functions of a good workbench and customizing is a great way to ensure that important tools and materials are always close by.



Simpson Strong-Tie makes connector hardware that allows you to easily build a workbench with 2x4 lumber.



Portable workbenches

This is a valuable folding work surface if you want to work outside, at the jobsite or if space is an issue. It goes where you go. And because of this advantage, it can be a valuable supplement to your stationary workbench. They are typically small, sturdy and versatile with a built-in clamping system. There are portable workbenches for lighter DIY projects and more heavy duty designs for bigger jobs. Choose the bench that best suits your needs and level of DIY skill.

First apartment First toolbox



Moving to your first apartment is an exciting time! While it's fun to unpack and realize you finally have your own home, reality sets in when you quickly discover you need tools to get things done. Because your budget will most likely be tight, it's a good idea to buy only the tools you'll need now. Below is a list of the top 10 tools you'll need for your first toolbox. As you work on projects around your house, you'll acquire more tools but for now, this is what you'll need:

- 1** Claw hammer
- 2** Set of wrenches
- 3** Set of screwdrivers, Phillips, Robertson, slot
- 4** 18-inch level
- 5** Pliers, locking and adjustable
- 6** Cordless power drill with drill bits
- 7** Putty knife
- 8** Pencil
- 9** Tape measure
- 10** Utility knife

Top 10 other essentials

Unpacking from a move means many shopping trips to buy the necessary items to set up your home. Below is a list of the top 10 items you'll need and all are available, in one trip, at your local TIMBER MART.

- 1** Wall hooks and nails
- 2** Step stool
- 3** Batteries
- 4** Power strips
- 5** Extension cords
- 6** Cleaning supplies and bucket
- 7** Flash light
- 8** Light bulbs
- 9** Garbage bags
- 10** Broom and dustpan

