When it comes to dropped object prevention, not every tool will have a built-in attachment point for tethering. That’s where creating tool attachment points — a.k.a. “trapping” — comes in.

// TOOL ANATOMY 101

Step 1a: Identify Tool Type
- Hand Tools: Tools with a natural, fully enclosed hole or handle built into the body
- Power Tools: Tools requiring a power source to operate (often a battery or cord)
- Instruments: Tools with specific interfaces for measuring, testing, communicating or lighting
- Other: Tools or equipment that don’t fall into the other categories

Step 1b: Identify Tool Geometry
- Captive Hole or Handle: Enclosed hole or engineered handle
- Captive Waist or Neck: Inner midsection between two thicker ends
- Non-Captive: Open ended handle or other design

Step 2: Measure Tool Weight
Step 3: Measure Tool Size
Step 4: Record It

// TRAPPING THE TOOL

Hand Tools
- Captive Hole/Handle: Tool tails
- Captive Waist/Neck: Shackle traps
- Non-Captive: Tool tails or traps

Power Tools
- Captive Hole/Handle: Tool tails
- Captive Waist/Neck: Power tool traps
- Non-Captive: Brackets

Instruments
- Captive Hole/Handle: Tool tails
- Captive Waist/Neck: Tool tails or trap
- Non-Captive: Tool tails or traps

// TRAPS
- Shackle Traps: Connect to waisted/necked tools (with tapered mid sections) or tools with captive holes
- Tape traps: Added security and grip for hand tools without captive holes
- Cold Shrink Traps: Secures large or heavy tools instantly
- Power Tool Traps: Wraps around the battery portion of drills and other cordless power tools
- Brackets: For corded and cordless grinder power tools, D-ring attaches to lanyard
- Tape Measure Trap: Wraps around tape measure, D-ring attaches to lanyard
- Sleeves: Secures water bottles, canisters, phones and tablets

// TESTED AND TAGGED

Regardless of the trapping method used, make sure your equipment is rated by the manufacturer and labeled appropriately.

DISCUSSION DATE: _____________________

EMPLOYEE PARTICIPANTS:
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
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Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate worksite health and safety conversations. For more Toolbox Talks, please visit www.ergodyne.com/blog

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