

# Work and Home Safety : What to do if Your Finger Gets Cut Off



1. If amputation occurs, immediately call 911
2. If tools or machinery were involved in the accident make sure to shut them off or move away to prevent further injuries
3. Check for more serious injuries and treat those before the finger
4. Gently rinse the wound with water (or saline) and if possible wear gloves
5. Apply pressure with a gauze wrap or clean cloth
6. Elevate the wound above the heart as this slows down bleeding
7. **Gently rinse the amputated part with water (or saline)**
8. Wrap it in gauze and if possible place in a watertight bag and place on ice. **(Do NOT put it directly on ice, this can damage the tissue and nerve endings)**
9. Once paramedics arrive give the amputated finger to them. A cooled finger can be viable for up to 18 hours and an uncooled finger is viable for 4 – 6 hours.

## Prevention and Consequences of Finger Amputation:

- STOP - Think - What is the worst that can happen to me? "I just have one more cut.."
- Always be alert and focused when working with machinery, knives, or appliances with moving or sharp parts
- Do not work when tired or distracted. Warn others not to distract or startle you while operating equipment
- Use hand protection or machine guards when available
- Always turn off a machine (such as a shredder) before having your hands in proximity of the moving parts
- The consequences of finger loss will impact you, your family, and how you do your job.
- Workman's Comp does not financially compensate for finger loss, only thumbs!
- Two most common causes are doors (children) and power tools (tablesaw/skillsaw)



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Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, [ishn.com/articles/105784-what-to-do-if-your-finger-gets-cut-off](http://ishn.com/articles/105784-what-to-do-if-your-finger-gets-cut-off)

Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, [ishn.com/articles/105783-how-to-avoid-the-most-common-finger-loss-accidents](http://ishn.com/articles/105783-how-to-avoid-the-most-common-finger-loss-accidents)  
wikiHow, [wikihow.com/Give-First-Aid-for-a-Severed-Finger](http://wikihow.com/Give-First-Aid-for-a-Severed-Finger)