CLEANING TOOLS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19

The following protocol for cleaning tools is recommended by Milwaukee Tool. This protocol is for tools with no blood or bodily fluid visible on them. These protocols are subject to recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), OSHA, and those of state and local health departments. Remember to follow all applicable guidelines of these agencies. Also ensure employees are trained in accordance with OSHA’s HAZCOM standard for any commercial chemicals they may be using in the cleaning process. All Safety Data Sheets for those chemicals used should also be immediately accessible.

- People handing tools should wash their hands or use a proper hand sanitizer before and after use to help prevent contamination.
- People handling tools should be properly trained and protected using necessary PPE.
- If possible, tools should not be shared, if shared they should be cleaned in between each person’s use.
- Clean tools with mild soap, a clean damp cloth, and, as needed, an approved diluted bleach solution only. Certain cleaning agents and solvents are harmful to plastics and other insulated parts and shouldn’t be used.
- It’s not recommended to use cleaners that have conductive or corrosive materials, especially those with ammonia. Some of these include gasoline, turpentine, lacquer thinner, paint thinner, chlorinated cleaning solvents, ammonia and household detergents containing ammonia.
- Never use flammable or combustible solvents around tools.

CLEANING OPTIONS:

1. MILD SOAP & REST
   - If no blood was present on the product, it can be cleaned with a mild soap and a damp cloth to remove the fluids and then left to rest for 3 days. This is based on the CDC advisement that the virus may live on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours, which suggest that the virus would no longer be harmful after the resting period. This process is recommended for batteries.

2. MILD SOAP & DILUTED BLEACH SOLUTION
   - If no blood was present on the product, it can be cleaned with a mild soap and damp cloth to remove dirt and grease and then decontaminated with a diluted bleach solution, which is consistent with CDC advice. Full procedure for diluted bleach cleaning is found below. This is not recommended for use on batteries.

PROCEDURE

1. Clean the product surface with mild soap and water to remove dirt and grease.
2. Dip a clean cloth into the diluted bleach solution.
3. Wring out the cloth so it is not dripping wet.
4. Gently wipe each handle, grasping surfaces, or outer surfaces with the cloth, using care to ensure liquids do not flow into tool.
5. No other cleaning material should be used as the diluted bleach solution should never be mixed with ammonia or any other cleanser.
6. Allow the surfaces to dry naturally.
7. The cleaner should avoid touching their face with unwashed hands and should immediately wash their hands after this process.

A properly diluted bleach solution can be made by mixing:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water; or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
Note: If blood was on the product, advance cleaning is needed. Follow Established Bloodborne Pathogen protocols for your business. Under OSHA requirements, anyone required to perform this type of cleaning should be trained in Bloodborne Pathogens and the use of necessary PPE for this work.