

The Ultimate House Toolbox:

Guide to hand tools every homeowner needs

I have read several articles on the toolbox for the average home owner and what it should contain, the lists vary slightly and several include more tools than listed here.

Amy Wilson of Money Magazine, writes . . .

From shutting off the gas in an emergency (Crescent wrench) to hanging pictures (torpedo level), we narrowed it down to the essential hand tools. Pros and do-it-yourselfers will argue over the specifics (metal or wood? eight inch or 10?), but they'll agree that quality is key.

Spend the money for the best, says Norm Abram of This Old House, and "you'll have a tool to last a lifetime."

This is my list.

1. TORPEDO LEVEL. A magnetic strip recommended – laser, optional.

NINE INCH TORPEDO LEVEL



(or)

LASER TORPEDO LEVEL



2. CRESCENT WRENCH. With jaws that can open to 1 5/16 inches, it can handle any nut that you'll encounter.

CRESCENT WRENCH



(or)

VIPERGRIP- Self-Adjusting and Automatic Locking Pliers



3. NEEDLENOSE PLIERS. It tackles everything from craft projects to home-wiring tasks. Look for one that can cut wire.



4. TWENTY-FIVE-FOOT MEASURING TAPE. The case should fit in your hand comfortably.



5. RETRACTABLE UTILITY KNIFE.



6. SIXTEEN-OUNCE HAMMER. Metal, wood or fiberglass--buy for comfort, balance and a good grip. Great for both big and small jobs



7. COMBINATION SQUARE. A must for checking corners for squareness and marking cuts; metal versions are sturdiest.



8. FOLD-OUT ALLEN WRENCH SET. Recommend two--one standard, one metric.



9. CHANNELLOCK PLIERS. This adjustable tool works for a variety of plumbing chores.



10. SCREW-DRIVER SET. Size matters: Buy a set (with at least) three sizes each of Phillips-head and standard drivers.



11. PRY BAR: Use it to dismantle framing, pull nails and remove moldings, and for demolition.



12. CORDLESS DRILL: A 12-volt model will handle most drilling needs.



13. CHALK LINE: Used to snap a straight line to cut material.



14. VOLTAGE TESTER: A must have for any electrical repairs.



CIRCUIT ALERT VOLTAGE TESTER



(or)

VOLTAGE TESTER

15. CIRCULAR SAW: Look for 12 amps minimum, to cut metal and concrete with the appropriate blade.



16. TOOL BAG or BOX.



PLASTIC TOOL BOX with TRAY

SUPPLIES: Additional items that you may need . . . nails, screws, washers, sandpaper and carpenter's glue), for safety, add goggles and a pair of sturdy leather gloves.



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