MRAT 138	**Portable food processors, mixers and powered tools**	**Applicable to:** electric tin openers & knives; hand-held mixers; small blenders; small grinders	**See also:** 125, 133, 134
Process(es) covered:	The use of hand-held kitchen equipment which comes in several sizes from small battery-powered whisks to machines which really need a stand and table top blenders and smoothie makers.		

Control Measures

- Teach users to remove cutters and beaters (where possible) for cleaning and not to put the whole appliance in the sink or under a tap. The appliance itself and cutters that cannot be removed must be cleaned with a damp cloth or paper while the appliance is unplugged.
- Train users not to push food down the feed tube of a processor with fingers but to use the pushing implement provided and to isolate the machine from the power supply before removing accessories for cleaning. Clear instructions must be available.
- Only permit one pupil at a time to use this type of equipment.
- Provide close supervision to classes which include pupils who are too disruptive to be readily trusted with such equipment.
- If long mains leads cannot be avoided, route them so that there is no risk of anyone tripping over them.
- If any mixer tends to produce a cloud of flour dust, it should either be fitted with a lid or the method of adding flour to the mix should be chosen to minimise the problem.
- Frequent visual checks and regular formal inspections reduce risks of electric shock resulting from damage.
- When using electric carving knives, it is important to follow guidance from the manufacturer and only use with foods that are suitable for cutting with this equipment. It is also important to ensure that the knife is not connected to the power when inserting or removing the blades. Never to wash the blades in water while still attached to the motor. After removal, the blades should be washed with care. The blades are self-sharpening by friction during use and should not be sharpened manually.

Immediate Remedial Measures:

Flour dust is in the eyes	Wash thoroughly for at least 20 minutes with water to prevent scratching of the eye. Call 111 and seek medical advice if irritation persists.
Cuts	If cuts are minor, ie, of a sort which casualties would normally treat themselves, the wound should be washed clean and a small, sterilised dressing applied.
Electric shock	Send for a first aider immediately. Taking care for your own safety, break contact by switching off or pulling out the plug. If it is necessary to move the casualty without switching off the supply, use a broom handle or wooden window pole or wear rubber gloves. If the casualty is unconscious and not breathing, check that the airways are clear and begin artificial ventilation. Send for an ambulance. If a trained first aider does not arrive quickly and the casualty has no pulse, consider carrying out cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Storage	Any tool that has the potential to be misused should be stored in a secure place.

Disposal	See 143. The *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations* 2006 (the *WEEE Regulations*) apply.

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Risk Assessment

Hazards:

Electric shock Injury Tripping Flour dust	Damage to the casing of the appliance, the plug or to a mains power cord can present an electric shock hazard. Water inside the appliance can lead to insulation breakdown and to external metal becoming live. Sharp cutting surfaces may be hazardous if the equipment is misused or if care is not taken during cleaning or storage. Mains leads that trail across the floor present a tripping hazard. Flour dust presents both a health and an allergic reaction hazard. It has a STEL (15 mins) of 30 mg $m^{-3.}$

Risks:

Electric shock	Appliances that are repeatedly moved, plugged in and unplugged are liable to damage which increases this risk. If the power cord is long then it can be damaged by trapping in cupboard doors, by being caught in its own mechanism or by touching hot objects on a hob. Holding the whole machine under a tap to wash cutters or beaters can allow water to enter which may present a serious risk.
Injury	Small grinders, eg, for coffee beans, which often have a top which must be held down to operate the on / off switch, present little risk of injury unless the top is broken and allows a finger to enter. Hand-held mixers have too low a power to cause significant injury with the beaters supplied.
Tripping	If appliances have to be fitted with long leads that trail across the floor, the tripping risk is significant.
Flour dust	It is not difficult in a food room to keep the amount of flour dust well below the exposure level.

Further Information:

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