



Starter tool checklist

The first-year basics. Always ask your boss what the company supplies before you buy.

PPE (USUALLY YOURS TO OWN)

- Safety boots (steel or composite cap) that actually fit
- Safety glasses
- Work gloves suited to your trade
- Ear protection
- Hi-vis if your site requires it, plus sun protection outdoors

CORE HAND TOOLS (MOST TRADES)

- Tape measure and a marking pencil or marker
- Screwdrivers (flat and Phillips) and pliers
- Adjustable shifter and a set of spanners
- Utility knife
- A tough, simple tool bag or pouch
- Head torch

BY TRADE (FIRST-YEAR STARTERS)

Electrical: insulated screwdrivers, side cutters, cable strippers, a torch. Ask before buying a tester.

Plumbing: hacksaw, PVC cutters, multigrips, a spirit level, knee pads.

Carpentry: speed square, claw hammer, chisels, a nail bag, a good pencil.

HVAC/R: tube cutter, deburrer, flaring set, a multimeter when you start on the electrical side.

Automotive: a metric socket set, spanners, screwdrivers and pliers. The workshop supplies the big gear.

Do not buy a full kit before day one. Buy quality on the tools your hand is on all day, and add the rest as the work demands it. If you supply your own tools, check whether your award pays a tool allowance, and keep receipts for tax.