

# *Risk Assessment for using a wheelbarrow on a construction site*

*“To ensure that the wheelbarrow is used safely and efficiently.”*



## Introduction

ezTip® and iTip® Safety Handles provide Health and Safety Executive (HSE) compliance allowing for the first time a truthful, accurate legal Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) for using a wheelbarrow.

This document has been developed as a guide. It should also be used alongside a Method Statement. For a full RAMS analysis contact the First Principles Group on 024 7688 0450.

## Scope of Work

A risk assessment is a document that identifies the hazards and risks associated with a task or activity and evaluates the likelihood and severity of harm that could result from them. It also describes the control measures that are in place or need to be implemented to eliminate or reduce the risks. It should include the following elements:

- The task or activity and its objectives
- The hazards and risks involved
- The people who are exposed to the hazards and risks
- The existing control measures and their effectiveness
- The additional control measures that are required or recommended
- The review date and any actions taken

## Risk Assessment for Using a Wheelbarrow

- **Task or Activity:** Using a wheelbarrow to transport materials on site.
- **Objectives:** To ensure that the wheelbarrow is used safely and efficiently, without causing injury to the user or others, or damage to the equipment or materials.
- **Hazards and Risks:** The main hazards and risks associated with using a wheelbarrow are:
  - Manual handling injuries, such as strains, sprains, cuts and bruises, due to lifting, pushing, pulling or tipping the wheelbarrow (high risk)
  - Slips, trips, and falls, due to uneven or slippery surfaces, obstacles or spills (medium risk)



- Collisions or impacts, due to poor visibility, speed, or control of the wheelbarrow (medium risk)
- Toppling over or spilling of the load, due to overloading, losing the hand grip, imbalance, or incorrect angle of tipping (medium risk)
- Damage to the equipment or materials, due to improper use or maintenance of the wheelbarrow (low risk)
- Loss of Control, the point of tipping means the hands must change position and let go of the load and apparatus. Thus, control is momentarily lost (high risk)

**People Exposed:** The user of the wheelbarrow and anyone else who may be in the vicinity of the task.

**Existing Control Measures:** The following control measures are already in place:

- The user of the wheelbarrow has received training and instruction on how to use it safely and efficiently.
- The wheelbarrow is checked regularly for any defects or damage and reported to the supervisor if any are found.
- The user wears appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, boots, hi-vis vest, and helmet, depending on the task and site conditions.
- The wheelbarrow has Safety Handles fitted.
- The load is placed well forward, balanced, and confined in size. The load does not exceed the load capacity of the wheelbarrow. The user can see over and around the load.



- The user lifts the wheelbarrow with their legs, not their back. They keep their back straight and their arms slightly bent. They use both hands to grip the handles firmly.
- The user pushes the wheelbarrow forward at a steady pace. They do not run or rush. They use the brake to slow down or stop if needed. They avoid sudden turns or changes of direction.
- The user keeps an eye on their surroundings and watches out for any hazards or obstacles. They warn others out of their way. They cross over obstacles at a right angle. They use ramps or lifts if available.
- The user tips the load smoothly at a suitable location. They keep their back and wrists straight thanks to the rotation provided by iTip Safety Handles. They do not let go of iTip Safety Handles until the load is fully tipped, therefore never losing control.
- They return the wheelbarrow to its upright position.
- The user empties the wheelbarrow completely and cleans it, if necessary, after use. Safety Handles are cleaned and lubricated with a silicon spray. They store it in a designated area where it does not pose a hazard or obstruction to others.

## Additional Control Measures

The following control measures are required or recommended:

- The user should avoid working in severe weather conditions, such as rain, ice, or snow, which may increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls.
- The user should avoid working in crowded areas where there may be more risk of collisions or impacts. If necessary, they should identify a quiet area with peers where they can work safely.



- The user should ensure that any areas where they work are well lit, free of debris and spills, and have adequate signage and barriers to warn others of their presence.
- The user should follow any site-specific rules or procedures regarding the use of wheelbarrows.



### Review Date

This risk assessment should be reviewed annually or whenever there is a significant change in the task, equipment, materials, or site conditions.

### Actions Taken

Any actions taken because of this risk assessment should be recorded here.



A [2 person Safety Handle set](#) reduces the chance of losing grip as well as back and wrist injury during “muck away” lifting requirements.

## Background

Safety Handles are a UK invention designed to reduce musculoskeletal symptoms such as backache, when completing manual handling tasks. Although automation has reduced the need for human involvement in many tasks, there are still situations where it is more time/ cost effective to use traditional methods. Safety Handles have been independently evaluated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The scientists summarised the effects as;

“The measured reductions in the wrist angles will, in the long term, decrease the risk of musculoskeletal symptoms and disorders developing in the wrist”

For the report click here> [Safety Handles Health and Safety](#). There is an additional report at the same location showing how they have been

independently tests for strength. iTip Safety Handles are rated and exceed the HSE's guidance.

Since being introduced to the health and safety industry, Practitioners have found additional benefits from Safety Handles including being used on cement mixers and roll cages. The HSE have a roll cage with Safety Handles at their Buxton Laboratories, to demonstrate safety innovation. In fact, the Innovation Society awarded them the Best International Invention of the Year. They have also won awards such as Product of the Year, Best New Tool, and Best of British. The Highways industry have marked them "Highly Commended".



ezTip & iTip Safety Handles designed to reduce manual handling injuries.

## Sustainability

A key parameter for innovation is to make the product as sustainable as possible. To this end iTip Safety Handles readily breakdown in the correct compostable conditions. They are manufactured in Slough, the UK, to reduce their carbon footprint. The nature of manual handling also reduces the need for carbon producing powered equipment to move loads.

## Availability

iTip Safety Handles are currently available from [www.SafetyHandles.co.uk](http://www.SafetyHandles.co.uk). They are supplied individually and in bulk trade packs of various multiples. Please contact us on 0333 800 5000 for an account. The commercial variant is provided in high visibility colours to enhance the safety capability. Individual high visibility commercial sets of iTip or ezTip Handles are available at £25 (+VAT). The 2Tip is available at £50 (+VAT). For exports, please call Paul on 0333 800 5000.

## Summary

iTip Safety Handles are an inexpensive control measure designed to improve safety and comfort.

*"iTip Handles are an easy way to show we care about the welfare of our team"*

Ross Bullerwell Managing Director of North Yorkshire Highways

For details contact [Hello@SafetyHandles.co.uk](mailto>Hello@SafetyHandles.co.uk) ring 0333 800 5000 or visit [www.SafetyHandles.co.uk](http://www.SafetyHandles.co.uk).

