

### What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts, puncture wounds, lacerations and contact with sharp blades

### What PPE should the individual wear?

See reverse for Sector Specific PPE requirements

### What other precautions should be taken?



**Never** place used knives in sinks, but wash up separately

## Sharpening knives with a steel

### Safety Task Card STCCS 11b

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

### Safe System of Work

1. Visually check the condition of the knife and the steel before use and make sure the knife is clean.
2. Do not attempt to sharpen a serrated knife – only straight-edged knives can be sharpened with a steel.
3. Only use a steel that has a hand guard at the base of the steel.
4. Use the steel on a clean, non-slip, level surface, such as a chopping board, in an area with good lighting and adequate space.
5. When using the steel vertically, hold it with the point resting firmly on the non-slip surface.
6. If using the steel horizontally, hold the knife in your main hand and the steel in the other. Your hands and fingers must stay behind the guard at the base of the steel.
7. Starting with one face of the knife, draw the knife along the steel from the base to the point of the knife, keeping it at a 45-degree angle to the steel. Press firmly but not hard.
8. Repeat a few times and then repeat for the other face of the knife.
9. Never attempt to catch a falling knife.
10. When finished, wash the knife to remove any metal filings that may be on the blade.
11. Always carry knives with the blade pointing downwards.

SCAN FOR  
SAFE SYSTEMS OF  
WORK VIDEO



Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

## Sharpening knives with a steel continued

Safety Task Card  
**STCCS 11b**

### Sector-Specific PPE requirements

Please review your **Sector-Specific Guidance** to determine if you are required to wear PPE as part of your sector Risk Profile.

Where PPE is a requirement please record here the PPE required for the task and if it is not a requirement please tick the relevant box;

- PPE is not required for this task based on our Sector Risk Profile
- PPE is required for this task based on our Sector Risk Profile and the PPE to be issued is:
- 

Ensure all persons required to wear this PPE sign the **PPE Record of issue document** and that a copy of this is kept on their Personnel File.



If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.