

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Company Recall Hotline: (800) 729-3878

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Batteries Used with Power Tools Recalled by Milwaukee Electric Tool Co. Due To Laceration Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Milwaukee Power Plus, Chicago Pneumatic, and Extractor 14.4 and 18 volt 2.4 Ah NiCd battery packs

Units: About 1 million

Manufacturer/Importer: Milwaukee Electric Tool Co., of Brookfield, Wis.

Hazard: If a vent on the battery cell is damaged or compromised during use, the battery can explode and pose a laceration hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Milwaukee Electric Tool Co. has received 35 reports of incidents, including 11 injuries from battery packs exploding while in use. Injuries include minor cuts, bruises and some hearing loss.

Description: The recalled batteries are used to power drills, saws, radios, flashlights, wrenches and Extractor windshield glass removers. The recall includes 14.4 and 18 volt 2.4 Ah NiCd Milwaukee Power Plus, Chicago Pneumatic, and Extractor battery packs manufactured between July 1999 and February 2004. The brand name can be found on a label on most battery packs. However, some 14.4 Volt 2.4Ah packs did not have "Power Plus" on the label. The battery packs were sold both with tool kits and as individual battery packs. Battery packs manufactured after February 2004 are not included in this recall.

Sold by: Home centers, hardware stores, industrial distributors and vehicle service distributors nationwide from July 1999 through 2005.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled battery packs. Consumers should contact the Milwaukee Electric Tool Co. to determine if they have one of the recalled batteries. The company will provide a free replacement battery pack for consumers with recalled units.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact Milwaukee Electric Tool Co. at (800) 729-3878 between 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.milwaukeeetool.com (pdf)

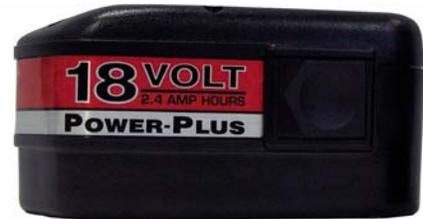
SAFETY RECALL

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation is recalling all

14.4V 2.4 Ah and 18V 2.4 Ah NiCd Battery Packs

manufactured between 1999 and February 2004 because the battery packs could explode if an over-pressure vent inside the battery pack becomes damaged during use.

14.4 Volt 2.4 Ah – Packs w/ labels and date codes shown below.	18 Volt 2.4 Ah Packs with “Power Plus” labeling only.
Cat. # 48-11-1024	Cat. # 48-11-2230
Date Code: 3799 thru 0504	Date Code: 2699 thru 0504



For a free replacement, call Milwaukee Electric Tool toll free at **1-800-729-3878 (1-800-SAWDUST)** between 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CT, Monday--Friday or go to **www.MILWAUKEETOOL.com**

for more information.



In cooperation with
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Please post until December 31, 2007

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Identifying recalled battery pack:

Description	Date Code Range Affected [found on bottom of battery pack lower housing as white numeric /alpha imprint to right of product label]
14.4V 2.4 amp/hr NiCD Battery Pack	3799S through 0504S
18.0V 2.4 amp/hr NiCD Battery Pack	2699S through 0504S

- All 14.4V and 18.0V 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Packs** with a red and silver “POWER-PLUS” label are included in this recall.



- Some **14.4V 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Packs** with a red and black label are included in this recall.

Battery Packs with a Date Code of 3799 thru 0504 are being recalled. To check the date code, look on the bottom of the battery pack for the white or gray stamped date code. The Date Code is made up of the week and year of manufacture. The “S” indicates the location of manufacture and is irrelevant to the recall. Example: 3703S was made in the 37th week of 2003



- 18.0V 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery packs with a red and black label are **NOT** included in this recall.



- 12V NiCD, 14.4V 1.7 Ah NiCD, 18V 2.0 Ah NiCD or any Ni-MH and Li-Ion battery packs are NOT included in this recall

- Private Label – Chicago Pneumatic** (as pictured) **14.4V 2.4 A NiCD Battery Packs** [p/n CP 8940158620] that fall within the Date Code Range 3799 thru 0504 and **18.0V 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Packs** [CP 8940158631] that fall within the Date Code Range 2699 thru 0504 are being recalled.



- Private Label - Crystal Glass / Extractor 18.0V 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Packs** (as pictured) that fall within the Date Code Range 2699 thru 0504 are being recalled.



Battery Pack Recall Safety Notice for 18V and 14.4V, 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Pack

manufactured between July 1999 and February 2004 and sold under the Milwaukee, Milwaukee POWER-PLUS, Chicago Pneumatic and Extractor brands

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- **What is prompting this Safety Notice / Recall Replacement Program?** Milwaukee has determined that this action is warranted because there is a risk that if an over-pressure vent on a battery cell inside the pack becomes damaged or compromised during use the pack could explode and create a risk of serious injury.
- **What packs are affected?** Only those packs specified above. NiCd packs manufactured after the specified dates are not affected by this recall. In addition, no Li-Ion packs are affected by this recall, and no NiMH packs are affected.
- **Why are we doing this now?** This recall was prompted by an investigation that Milwaukee conducted in response to reports of battery packs exploding.
- **Has anyone been injured by these packs?** Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp. has received 11 reports of injuries from battery packs exploding while in use. Most injuries that have been reported involve minor cuts and bruises. Two individuals reported some hearing loss.
- **How can we be sure other packs don't have this problem?** Milwaukee initiated a design change to its battery packs in 2004. There have been no reported incidents with any battery packs made after the dates reported in the recall notice.
- **What is the potential for my battery pack to explode?** The potential to explode is only present during the actual use of a battery pack or when charging on a charger; a pending explosive state is not present in a 'resting / not-in-use' battery pack. **STOP USING THE PACK IMMEDIATELY and return it for even exchange replacement as outlined in these materials.**
- **Do I need to return my battery pack if it has been repaired or refurbished by an after market battery rebuilder?** Yes, Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation recommends that all packs in the recall date code range be returned for replacement with new battery packs. It cannot be assumed that any repair or refurbishing done addressed the underlying issue that prompted this recall. In addition, Milwaukee cannot guarantee the integrity of work performed on battery packs by persons other than MILWAUKEE authorized personnel.
- **Does this have anything to do with li-ion battery packs?** No. As stated above, Li-ion batteries are not affected by this recall.

What to do?

After verifying that the date code of your Milwaukee POWER-PLUS battery pack(s) falls within the Affected Date Code Range please call **1.800.729.3878** (1.800.SAWDUST) for a postage-paid shipping label to return an affected battery pack for a no-charge / even exchange replacement battery pack. In **Canada** please call **1.800.268.4015**

Follow the same procedure for Chicago Pneumatic and Extractor private label* battery packs, after verifying that your pack is an: 1) 18V or 14.4V, 2.4 Ah NiCD Battery Pack sold under the **Chicago Pneumatic**  label – part numbers CP 8940158631 for 18V and CP 8940158620 for 14.4V that fall within the same Affected Date Code Ranges; or 2) Crystal **Glass Extractor** 18V Battery Pack that falls within the same 18V Affected Date Code Range.

(*Private label products are typically those manufactured or provided by one company for offer under another company's brand.)

We expect no delay in availability of replacement battery packs; every attempt will be made to ship your **no-charge / even exchange replacement battery pack** within 24 hours of receipt of an affected date code range battery pack.

- Please return BATTERY PACK ONLY, do not return your cordless tool or battery charger -

STORAGE & SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS: In order to insure non-use of an affected date code range battery pack it is suggested to TAPE OVER TERMINALS as pictured. In order to comply with proper shipping procedures and to avoid an accident while in transit, the following precautions should be taken when packaging battery packs for shipment.

1. Place masking or duct tape over the top of each battery pack to insulate the three terminals.
2. Place each battery pack in a separate plastic bag, or totally enclose battery pack in one layer of bubble wrap or similar material.



Photos show a battery pack properly prepared for shipment.

TAPE OVER TERMINALS - INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED

Following this procedure will insure battery terminals are insulated, and batteries can not contact each other during storage or shipment.



We consider product QUALITY and SAFETY to be our highest priorities.

Please accept our apology for any inconveniences this recall no-charge - even exchange replacement program may cause you. It is through this even exchange replacement program that we want to assure our customers of the 'nothing but heavy-duty' commitment to quality, safety and customer satisfaction with their Milwaukee products – having you continue to equip your shop with and keep coming back for... Milwaukee portable electric power tools.

If you have any further concerns or questions please call **1.800.729.3878** – in **CANADA** please call **1.800.268.4015**.