

Injuries spike among home improvement novices

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The number of do-it-yourselfers showing up in hospital emergency rooms with nail gun injuries is skyrocketing. A Duke University researcher says choosing carefully at your local hardware store can keep you from being a statistic.

The number of accidents involving home carpenters using nail guns tripled between 1991 and 2005, increasing to almost 15,000 a year, according to an analysis done by a team at the Duke University Medical Center. Many injuries caused by nail guns can be prevented by using tools which only fire when the nose piece is depressed before the trigger is pulled. Nearly 96 percent of the injured consumers were male, with an average age of 35.