

TOOL HANDLES

DEFINITION AND ROLE

This is the part of a tool or instrument held by someone's hand in the context of its use. Characterised by a round or ovoid shape, the handle can have various lengths. It must be able to withstand shocks. It must also be able to absorb them so as not to transmit vibrations to the person using it (in the case of a hammer or a garden tool).

STRESSES

The most stressed handles are those of striking tools, as they must absorb shocks and resist bending.

REQUIRED PROPERTIES

The timber species sought for this purpose must have good mechanical properties, and especially good resistance against shocks and bending. The wood must be highly resilient and easy to shape. The surface condition must remain smooth and free from sharp edges and scratches during use. The main risks are breaking and splitting of the timber.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

In general, these are pieces obtained by turning or by special shaping. Not all handles are suitable to receive a finish.

USAGE CLASS

This notion is not essential in the choice of a species for the manufacture of tool handles. As such, the usage class varies from 1 to 3.



Photo: Tool handles © M. Vernay