Detectable Safety Knives

How to: Choose, Use & Protect Personal & Product Safety Information

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Knife Selection

Knives are used in the food industry for two basic purposes.

They are used for in-process preparation or they are used for support processes such as opening packaging to access ingredients or materials.

Detectamet detectable knives are designed to do a variety of jobs.

For example some are intended for cutting board and some are designed for, and better at, cutting film or bubble wrap for example.

In some work situations there are several different jobs and in order to simplify choice a single general purpose knife will be the most efficient solution.

Selection check list

Metal Detectable Plastic Construction [ ]

X-Ray Detectable Plastic Construction [ ]

Colour Choice [ ]

Identify materials to be cut/opened in this operation

Identify multipurpose knife [ ]

Identify job specific knife [ ]

Spare fittings - spare blades [ ]

Used blade box [ ]

Shadow board [ ]

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Here are some typical jobs and challenges for the Detectamet safety knife range

**Cardboard**

**Challenges:**
- Estimate the depth of the cut to avoid damage to contents.
- How to create a clean straight single cut to prevent loose cardboard swarf as a potential contaminant.

**Plastic Adhesive Tape**

**Challenges:**
- Depth of cut without causing damage to the contents. Accurate straight single cut for efficient working.

**Pallet Strapped Boxes**

**Challenges:**
- How to achieve efficient strap cutting with a single cut to avoid loose shards of plastic strap which can become a potential contaminant.

**Film Wrapped Boxes**

**Challenges:**

**Sacks/ Plastic Bags**

**Challenges:**
- Clean straight single cut to prevent loose sack material as a potential contamination.  
  *You can also use our detectable polythene bags for complete quality assurance.*

**Bubble Wrap**

**Challenges:**
- Multilayer structure of the wrap requires controlled presentation to the blade for a single cut. Multiple cutting leaves multiple waste pieces - potential contaminants.

**Plastic Netting**

**Challenges:**
- Single cut without damaging contents. Clean straight single cut to prevent loose shreds of net as a potential contaminant.

**Plastic Strapping**

**Challenges:**
- Efficient strap cutting to achieve single cut avoiding loose shards of plastic strap which can become a potential contaminant.

**Plastic Film**

**Challenges:**
- Accurate depth of cut without damaging the contents. Beware loose film.

**Engineering Plastics**

**Challenges:**
- Cut resistant materials require heavy duty blades and construction.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Knife Type</strong></th>
<th><strong>Suggested Use and Technical Information</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SK100 Detectable Sheet Cutter 615-K100-T191-P01</td>
<td>Cuts cardboard box adhesive tapes and plastic sheeting. A highly simplified blade change with an integrated removable metal slitter. • Fully metal detectable • Plastic sheet cutter (also leather, plastic box strapping) • Replacement blades • Integrated metal slitter tool to open the blade cover • Has a special tool to open the blade cover “preventing unauthorised access to the blade” • Tested for safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK101 Sheet Cutter 615-K101-T184-P01</td>
<td>The SK101 has the same benefits as the SK100, without the access prevention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK102 Detectable with Retractable Blade 615-K102-T038-P30</td>
<td>Cuts the full range of packaging material. The spring loaded blade retract system responds to any loss of control. The thumb push slider in a forward position allows the packaging to be cut. Release the thumb slider and the blade retracts. • Fully metal detectable • Replaceable blades • Aluminium body • Spring loaded blade retract • Tested for safety • Detectable plastic parts • Easy blade change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK104 Detectable General Purpose Auto Retract 615-K104-T184-P01</td>
<td>Cuts the full range of packaging material. This general purpose knife has a non-replaceable blade which is sealed in the handle for extra safety. It is simple to use and lightweight. The user pushes the blade slider to expose the cutting edge. When released the blade retracts automatically for safety. The fully metal detectable plastic housing is approved for safe food contact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK106 Detectable Packaging Cutter 615-K106-T030-P01</td>
<td>A disposable metal detectable knife for light duty applications with fixed blade to reduce the risk of accidents. No loose blades to fall into food by accident. • Fully metal detectable body • Pointed nose for piercing • Hygienic and disposable • Shielded stainless steel blades fixed in the mould • No removable parts • Impact resistant durable polypropylene casing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK107 Heavy Duty Detectable Sheet Cutter 615-K107-T031-P01</td>
<td>Cuts cardboard box adhesive tapes and plastic sheeting. A disposable metal detectable knife for heavy use. Fixed blade to reduce the risk of accidents. No loose blades to fall into food by accident. • Fully metal detectable body • Pointed nose for piercing • Hygienic and disposable • Shielded stainless steel blades fixed in the mould • No removable parts • Impact resistant durable polypropylene casing</td>
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<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Features</th>
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<tr>
<td>SK108 Detectable Multipurpose Safe Knife</td>
<td>Detectable knife for light duty applications. Fixed shielded blade to reduce the risk of accidents. No loose blades to all into food by accident.</td>
<td>Select safe permanent hook fitting to suit specific work needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK109 Detectable Safety Knife with Hook Blade</td>
<td>Unique patented channel guides the material to be cut directly onto the steel blade. As the channel deepens, the pressure increases onto the blade, the cutting action is more effective, takes the strain off the operator and increases overall efficiency.</td>
<td>Designed specifically for the most common uses for knives - cutting cardboard boxes. A revolutionary and unique breakthrough in the field of safety knives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK111 Detectable Box Cutter</td>
<td>A disposable metal detectable knife for light duty applications. Fixed shielded blade to reduce the risk of accidents. No loose blades to all into food by accident.</td>
<td>Similar to SK111 without a metal punch hook to pierce card before cutting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK112 Detectable Box Cutter with Retractable Guard</td>
<td>Specifically designed to cut multi-layer paper, plastic bags and sacks. Made from metal detectable plastic with a stainless steel blade. The patented opposed slopes at the back of the blade reduces friction resistance which enables a smooth and more effective cut.</td>
<td>Made with metal detectable plastic incorporating stainless steel blades.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK116 Detectable Bag Cutter</td>
<td>Made with metal detectable plastic incorporating stainless steel blades.</td>
<td>Patented ‘opposed exits’ at the back of the blade • Spring loaded auto retractable hook blade • Disposable • Suitable for cutting strapping, paper, stretch and bubble wrap, tape, boxes and a variety of other packaging materials.</td>
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Larger more robust heavy duty version of SK117.
• Replaceable blades • 9mm mouth opening • Tamper proof option • Optional retracting hook • Fast blade change and easy to clean • Suitable for cable ties, rope, string and netting

SK119 Detectable Safe Knife with Retractable Blade
615R-K119-T037-A117
Blade lock control for cutting with auto retraction when dropped or jerked
• Made with tough reinforced metal detectable nylon • Metal detectable security key for easy blade change • Detectable plastic blade carrier • Easy cleaning

SK120 Detectable Heavy Duty Safe Knife with Retractable Blade
615R-K120-T037-A118
• Moulded in tough reinforced metal detectable nylon • Metal detectable security key for easy blade change • Aluminium blade carrier • Easy cleaning • Blade lock control for cutting with auto retraction when dropped or jerked

Having picked the best knife for the job the next challenge is to make sure the knife is handled correctly.

Knives are often used repetitively. If the worker uses the knife incorrectly and the result is repeatedly damaged contents, or waste contamination then the result will be repeated again and again.

**Tips and techniques**

1. Select the right knife
2. Train the worker to use it
3. Position the package so that it is easy to hold and will not slip
4. Hold firmly to resist twist or slippage of the package
5. Stand correctly so you are comfortable and you don’t oversretch
6. Make one firm, clean and effective cut to avoid multiple cuts that produce slivers and contaminants
7. Release and keep the knife safe and place the waste in a trash can
8. If you experience a blunt performance change the blade now
9. A sharp knife is a safe knife
10. A rushed cut is a bad cut

**Quick Q&A**

Q: Pieces of paper or plastic sack in the product
A: A double cut has been made - make one cut only

Q: Plastic ‘breaks’ breaking off the knife
A: Wrong knife for the job or knife has been levered putting pressure on the beak that has snapped

Q: Metal hook has snapped off
A: Check how it has been used. Has the knife/ hook been used to lever open a tin lid or similar? Misuse is a common cause of knife failure.