



# INSTRUCTION MANUAL PITCHFORKS

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Revision

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Date

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This manual aims to **guide the user** in the safe and efficient use of this product.

## 1. WORK IDENTIFICATION AND TASKS

For performing tasks involving gripping, lifting, and handling materials.

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT

### 2.1. Risk Identification

#### Cut and Amputation Risks

- Possibility of serious cuts or amputations when handling metal tips or sharp edges, both during use and while transporting or maintaining.
- Risk of cuts, punctures, or abrasions from contact with metal edges, tips, thorns, or abrasive surfaces.
- Danger of injury when changing components without adequate protection.

#### Impact and Projection Risks

- Accidental strikes to people or nearby objects with the handle, head, or moving tool.
- Projection of particles, wood, metal, or vegetation fragments that can cause eye injuries.

#### Ergonomic, Postural, and Repetitive Motion Risks

- Muscle fatigue or pain in the arms, shoulders, back, or knees from repetitive or prolonged use.
- Injuries from forced or uncomfortable postures (bending, squatting, wrist or back strain).
- Injuries from muscle overload due to excessive material load with the pitchfork.
- Rashes, irritations, or abrasions from repeated friction or poorly fitting gloves.

#### Slips, Trips, and Loss of Control Risks

- Falls or trips when working on uneven, wet, or sloped surfaces.
- Loss of control of the tool due to loose handles, worn heads, or material wear.
- Slips due to poor grip, wet or ill-fitting gloves.

#### Risks Due to Poor Condition or Incorrect Use

- Tools in poor condition (loose handles, broken or bent prongs, loose heads) that increase the risk of accidents.
- Incorrect use of the tool that can cause damage to both the user and the equipment.

#### Chemical and Environmental Contact Risks

- Skin irritation or reactions from contact with plants, damp soil, or chemicals.

### 2.2. Risk Assessment

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<b>Peligro</b>	<b>Consecuencia</b>	<b>Probabilidad</b>	<b>Severidad</b>	<b>Riesgo</b>
Cut and Amputation	Cuts/punctures to hands or feet	Medium	High	High
Impact and Projection	Bruises; small projections	Medium	Low	Low
Ergonomics, Postural, and Repetitive Risks	Pain/fatigue in back, shoulders, and arms	High	Medium	Hig
Falls, Trips, and Loss of Control	Falls/trips; loss of control	Medium	Medium	Medium
Poor Condition or Incorrect Use	Accidents due to deteriorated handle/head	Medium	High	High
Chemical and Environmental Risks	Skin irritation from contact	Low	Low	Low

### **2.3. Preventive Measures for Identified Risks**

#### **Cut and Amputation Risks**

- Wear protective gloves to reduce the risk of cuts, abrasions, or punctures to the hands.
- Keep feet protected with safety footwear to prevent injuries from contact with the edge/tips.
- Always maintain a balanced posture and avoid sudden movements during use.
- Conduct training on proper tool handling techniques.
- Do not use tools with defects, cracks, or excessive wear.

#### **Impact and Projection Risks**

- Maintain a safe distance from other people during operation.
- Never handle pitchforks above head height, whether loaded or not.

#### **Ergonomic, Postural, and Repetitive Motion Risks**

- Take regular breaks to avoid muscle fatigue.
- Apply ergonomic techniques to reduce tension in shoulders, back, and joints.
- Alternate tasks to avoid prolonged repetitive movements.
- Use tools that are adapted to the size and strength of the worker.

#### **Falls, Trips, and Loss of Control Risks**

- Maintain a stable posture, with feet shoulder-width apart.
- Work on firm, clean surfaces, free from obstacles.
- Avoid using the tool in adverse weather conditions.
- Keep the work area tidy and clean to reduce trip hazards.

#### **Poor Condition or Incorrect Use Risks**

- Inspect the tool before each use to ensure it is in good condition.
- Immediately replace worn or damaged parts.
- Store tools in safe, dry, and organized places.
- Transport tools in appropriate cases or covers to prevent accidental damage.

**Chemical and Environmental Contact Risks**

- Use appropriate gloves if there is frequent contact with damp soil or plants that may cause irritation.
- Avoid prolonged direct contact with contaminated or wet materials.

**2.4. Corrective Measures in Case of an Accident****Cuts or Amputations**

- Administer first aid: apply direct pressure to the wound, disinfect, and bandage.
- In case of serious injuries, immediately go to an emergency center.
- Inspect the tool before using it again to ensure it is in good condition.

**Impact or Projections**

- If particles enter the eyes, rinse with plenty of clean water and do not rub.
- Seek medical attention if there is persistent pain or loss of vision.
- Check the tool and the work area before continuing.
- If a head injury occurs, stop work and assess physical condition; seek medical attention if dizziness, loss of consciousness, or severe pain occurs.

**Ergonomic, Postural, or Overexertion Injuries**

- Stop the task if pain or numbness occurs in the arms, shoulders, or back.
- Perform gentle stretches and rest before resuming work.
- Consult a doctor if the pain persists or worsens.

**Falls, Trips, or Loss of Control**

- If a fall occurs, stop the activity and check for fractures.
- Request help if it is not safe to move.
- Clean and organize the work area before resuming the activity.

**Accidents Due to Poor Condition or Incorrect Use**

- Stop using the tool if there is visible damage, looseness, or excessive wear.
- Immediately repair or replace defective parts.
- Store the tool in a safe, dry place before using it again.

**Accidents Due to Environmental Contact**

- In case of skin irritation, wash the area with water and soap.
- Discontinue contact with plants or damp soil that cause a reaction.
- Consult a doctor if symptoms persist or worsen.

**2.5. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Measures**

This manual aims to **guide the user** in the safe and efficient use of this product.

- The effectiveness of these measures will be evaluated by ensuring that, after their application, the situation has been safely controlled, the user has received the necessary care, and the tool has been inspected or repaired before resuming work.
- It is also recommended to periodically review the condition of the tool and compliance with safety regulations, adjusting the measures if new risks arise in the work environment.

### **3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

#### **3.1. Considerations for Use Preparation**

- Keep the work area free of people, animals, and obstacles.
- Check that the tool is in good condition and free from visible damage.
- Keep the tines in good condition to ensure efficient and safe work.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Work in a clear, firm, stable, and well-lit area.
- Avoid distractions, fatigue, or using the tool under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications.
- Select the proper tool and be familiar with the correct technique for use.
- Have a basic first aid kit on hand.
- Keep covers, locks, or protections in place until the tool is ready for use.
- Store the tool safely and securely when not in use.

#### **3.2. Considerations During Use**

- Always maintain a stable and secure posture.
- Hold the tool firmly, using both hands if necessary.
- Avoid using the tool with wet hands or on slippery surfaces.
- Use the tool only for the purpose intended by the manufacturer.
- Keep the work area free of people and animals.
- Do not force the tool or apply more force than necessary; let it work according to its design.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue and overexertion.
- Stay focused on the task, avoiding distractions.
- Always direct cuts, blows, or movements away from the body.
- If the tool becomes stuck, never manipulate the blade or risk area; release it with smooth movements or by following the proper procedure.

#### **3.3. Warnings**

- The tool is dangerous; improper use may cause accidents and create legal liabilities.
- Keep out of reach of children or untrained individuals.
- Do not use the tool under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications.
- Do not use the tool in inadequate visibility conditions.

This manual aims to **guide the user** in the safe and efficient use of this product.

- Sharp object
- Wear safety footwear
- Wear safety gloves
- Keep other people out of the work area
- Consult the instruction manual



## 4. MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

### 4.1. Cleaning

- Clean the tool after each use to remove dirt, dust, or material residue.
- Thoroughly dry the metal parts to prevent corrosion.

### 4.2. Condition Inspection

- Check that the tines/teeth are not bent or cracked.
- Verify that the handle is secure, free from splinters, cracks, or play.
- Check joints, screws, or rivets, and tighten them if necessary.

### 4.3. Storage

- Store in a dry, clean place, protected from moisture.
- Keep out of reach of children and unauthorized persons.
- Hang or store in appropriate supports to prevent deformation and falls.
- Do not leave the tool exposed to the elements or in direct contact with wet ground.

### 4.4. Specific Maintenance

- Check the alignment of the teeth and replace them if damaged.
- Inspect and replace handles if worn.

### 4.5. Recycling and Environment

- When the tool is no longer functional, dispose of it according to local waste regulations.
- Properly separate different materials.
- Deposit metal components at authorized recycling points.
- Avoid leaving tools in the natural environment.

## 5. CONTACTO Y SOPORTE

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact our customer service:

- **Email:** [comercial@bellota.com](mailto:comercial@bellota.com)
- **Phone:** 0034 943 73 90 00

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- **Website:** [www.bellota.com](http://www.bellota.com)

We appreciate your trust in our products and are committed to ensuring your safety and satisfaction.