



Guide to Hammers

Trow & Holden has been making stoneworking hammers for more than 130 years. Located in the heart of granite country, we have access to the ideal testing ground for developing and refining our specialized tools until they are perfectly suited for use.

Each Trow & Holden hammer has been designed for a purpose. From steel specifications and tempering to shape and features, our hammers are designed and manufactured according to their intended function.

Hammers are hardened and tempered differently depending on whether they are meant to strike stone or to strike and be struck by other tools. Using a hammer outside its intended purpose can create a significant safety hazard. Some hammers, however, are designed specifically to combine a stone-cutting feature with the added versatility of a

striking face. These hammers are most easily identified by the chamfered edges of their striking face, which resembles the striking end of our hand tools.

As with any Trow & Holden stoneworking tool, take care to regularly maintain your hammer's "like new" shape and check frequently for any signs of unusual wear.

Do not use a hand tool or hammer if there is a question about its condition or performance. And remember, always wear eye protection.

To ensure your safety as well as the long life of your hammer, please take time to review this guide and become more familiar with our full collection of hammers and their unique features.

Striking Hammers

for tool-striking only

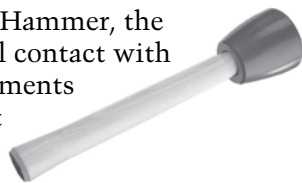
Hand Hammers

Our Hand Hammers are noted for exceptional balance and durability — making them ideal for years of reliable service. The traditional **round-eye hammer** has a narrower handle, which adds a slight bounce to its strike. Offered in 1/4 lb increments, it provides a tailored fit for consistent repetitive strikes. The **oval-eye hammer** helps keep the head of the hammer square with the handle, even as the handle begins to wear. The striking face is also larger, with a slight pitch to help promote solid contact when delivering aggressive blows.



Bell Hammer

An alternative to the Hand Hammer, the Bell Hammer will make full contact with hand tools despite misalignments that would otherwise result in painful mis-strikes.



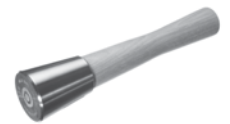
Brass Hammer

A perfect soft hammer for lettering or detail carving, the Brass Hammer helps prevent bruising of the stone and reduces chisel shank wear.



Round Hand Hammer

Like our other round hammers, the Round Hand Hammer helps deliver a more solid blow every time. However, it is generally reserved for lighter duty applications in which the hand may need to switch from a standard position to a more controlled grip around the mallet head. These 1 lb and 1-1/2 lb hammers are medium hard for smaller chisels and finer work.



Soft Stone Hammer

An annealed (or unhardened) hammer, the Soft Stone Hammer produces a lighter impact, which can provide improved control when working with softer types of stone.





Dual-Purpose Hammers

for shaping stone and striking other tools

In addition to being designed for the most aggressive stone splitting, trimming and pointing applications, all of our dual-purpose hammers also feature wear-resistant faces for striking or being struck by other hammers.

- *Avoid using the striking face for hitting stone — this will lead to pitting and unsafe, abnormal wear.*
- *Never strike carbide with steel, or vice versa. This will cause carbide to break and is not covered under warranty.*

Stone Buster

Featuring a carbide stone-splitting blade and hardened striking face, the Stone Buster can be used in three ways: swing the carbide splitting blade directly into stone; use its striking face to strike hand tools; or place its carbide blade against the stone and strike its back end with another striking hammer of comparable weight.



Hammer Set

A perfect complement to the Stone Buster, the Hammer Set can be used by employing the same three techniques listed above. However, the Hammer Set is used for pitching or trimming edges rather than splitting, with a carbide tip comparable to our Trow & Holden standard Hand Set.



Carbide Hammer Point

Like the Stone Buster and Hammer Set, the Carbide Hammer Point can be swung directly into stone, set and struck by another appropriate hammer, or used as a striking hammer itself. Its rugged carbide point is ideal for aggressive roughing out and makes quick work of removing high spots.



Quarry Buster

Like the smaller Stone Buster, the Quarry Buster can be swung to deliver a powerful splitting blow, or placed on the stone and struck by another hammer of comparable weight. The striking head can also be used to strike other large hammers, such as our Slab Splitter and Bull Set.



Slab Splitter

One of our heaviest splitting tools, the Slab Splitter should not be swung directly into stone. Using it is always a two-person operation, in which one person holds the hammer in place while the other delivers a striking blow with another hammer of comparable weight. Available with steel or carbide tip; however, Carbide Slab Splitters should only be used on polished or sawn stone.



Thin Stone Veneer Trimming Hammer

The Thin Stone Veneer Hammer was designed for hand trimming and shaping natural thin stone veneer, which is generally under 2" thick. The 1-1/4" wide carbide-tipped trimming blade will hold its cutting edge longer than steel blades. It features a beveled striking face, which can be used to strike smaller hand tools, and is particularly effective at trimming veneer stone when used in conjunction with our Thin Stone Veneer Hardie.





Dual-Purpose Hammers, cont'd

for shaping stone and striking other tools

Bull Set

The Bull Set is another two-person hammer designed for roughing out or shaping large blocks of stone. Like the smaller Hammer Set or a standard Hand Set, the flat blade of the Bull Set provides two stone-cutting edges for trimming and shaping. One person should hold the Bull Set at a slight angle while the other hits the steel striking face with another hammer of comparable weight. Like the Slab Splitter, the Bull Set should not be swung directly into stone, and only swung as a striking hammer. The Carbide Bull Set should only be used on polished or sawn stone.



Paleo Hammer

Designed specifically for fossil work, the Paleo Hammer features a hardened steel splitting blade and tool-striking face. This multipurpose tool is ideal for splitting apart shale and limestone, and for striking hand tools; it can also be set on the stone and struck with another hammer.



Geo Pick

With a hardened steel point perfectly suited for breaking apart rock, and a hammer face that can be used to strike hand tools or be struck with another hammer, the Geo Pick is a workhorse when it comes to both fossil hunting and more general rockhounding work. It is especially useful when working with stone that does not readily split along the bed grain.



Specialized Hammers

for striking stone only

Solid Tooth Bush Hammer

For shaping, texturing, or smoothing stone, the **Solid Tooth Bush Hammer** will leave a stippled finish on a stone surface. Consider using steel Bush Hammers for more aggressive applications, as the steel teeth are more forgiving. Like the Rock Pick, the **Carbide Bush Hammer** requires square and even contact with the stone surface to avoid uneven wear or breakage.



Mosaic Hammer & Hardie

Designed to be used as a set, the Mosaic Hammer and Hardie are traditionally used for cutting tile for detailed mosaic work. Drive the Hardie securely into a block of wood, leaving the hardened steel chisel edge as a fulcrum for precisely placing and cutting mosaic materials with the Mosaic Hammer, which is available with carbide, steel, or combination blades.



Carbide Mill Pick

Traditionally used for redressing the grinding surfaces of mill stones, the Mill Pick is handy for chiseling lines into stone or dressing edges. While the Mill Pick can also be used for light trimming of thin stone, the over-swinging required to shape thick pieces of hard stone can result in a broken handle.



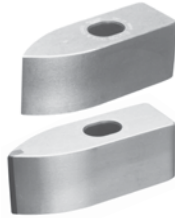


Stone Cutting & Trimming Hammers

for striking stone only

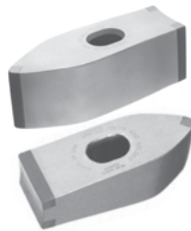
Stone Mason's or Mash Hammer

The Stone Mason's or Mash Hammers are made for striking stone only — they should not be used to hit other hammers or hand tools, nor should they be struck by another hammer. Use the flat, square face for stone trimming, and the blade for splitting. Available with steel or carbide-tipped splitting blade.



Ultimate Mash Hammer

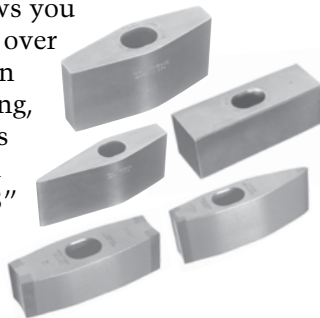
The Ultimate Mash Hammer features a rugged carbide tip in its splitting blade, as well as a slightly concave trimming face with carbide trimming edges. Available with vertical or horizontal orientation.



Trimming Hammers

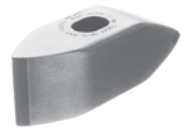
Trimming Hammers come in a variety of styles and weights, with steel or carbide blades. Like the Mash Hammer, they are also used to split, trim and square stone edges, but their slender profile makes them particularly balanced and accurate.

Available with double concave trimming faces or with a splitting blade and trimming face, the symmetric design allows you to turn the hammer's head over on the handle for more even wear. For easier resharpening, the concave trimming faces have been shaped to match the contour of small 6" or 8" diameter grinding wheels.



Carbide Double Blade Mason's Hammer

The Carbide Double Blade Mason's Hammer features two splitting blades, one horizontal and one vertical — both with our most rugged carbide tips for heavy-duty splitting.



Stinger

The Stinger combines a carbide-tipped splitting blade with a carbide-tipped point. This versatile hammer is great for pointing, splitting or trimming any stone, and is available with a vertical or horizontal blade.



Mallorcan Hammer

Available only in steel, the Mallorcan is designed in the style of traditional Spanish dry stone walling hammers. Featuring a pick and trimming face with a dimpled recess, this hammer is perfect for moderate pointing, texturing and trimming while building dry stack stone walls.



Rock Picks

These specialized 24 oz Vaughn® hammers are fitted with Trow & Holden's industry-leading carbide for enhanced durability and performance. Available in three head configurations, these hammers are ideal for trimming and texturing thin stone.

However, Rock Picks should only be used to strike stone, and special care should be taken to make complete contact with the with the stone surface. Uneven contact with the stone (including irregular surfaces) will quickly lead to chipped or broken carbide.





About Hammer Handles

Handle Types

Our hammers come with wood handles, with a fiberglass option on some styles. Either wood or fiberglass replacement handles can be purchased separately if needed. When choosing a handle, consider the following:

Wood handles generally absorb more vibration, but can be more susceptible to changes in work environment, which may lead to loosening or breakage. Replacements are easier to install in the field and are less expensive.

Fiberglass handles provide increased durability, feature thick rubber grips to help reduce handle vibration and slippage, are permanently installed using heavy-duty epoxy, and may not be appropriate for hammers designed to be flipped periodically for even wear of alternate trimming edges (e.g., Trimming Hammers, Mash Hammers, etc.).

Installation & Care

Over the course of normal usage, wood handles may loosen within the hammer eye, especially in a low-humidity environment. As needed, drive additional steel shims into the top of the handle to take up excess looseness (do not use nails or screws).

Additionally, let the hammer head and top of handle soak in linseed oil. The oil will be absorbed through the top of the handle, causing the wood to swell and tighten within the hammer eye.

When installing fiberglass handles, clear a sturdy, level space where the hammer head and handle can be left undisturbed for 24–48 hours at room temperature. Use wood or metal shims to hold the handle plumb in the hammer eye while the epoxy cures.

Replacement Handles

When ordering a replacement handle, be sure to note the style and weight of your hammer. This will help us determine the proper replacement.

Handle sizes and styles have been carefully considered and matched to each hammer's weight, style and intended use. Excessive handle wear or breakage may be an indication of improper hammer usage. However, should you experience abnormal handle movement or breakage during normal usage, please contact Trow & Holden directly for service at **1-800-451-4349**.

Manufacturer's Warranty

Trow & Holden's chisels, hammers and pneumatic tools are unconditionally guaranteed against defects in manufacturing and materials.

Under this guarantee, Trow & Holden will repair or replace, free-of-charge, any Trow & Holden tool evaluated and found to be defective. **However, please note that damage as a result of normal wear, misuse, mishandling, or failure to correctly maintain a tool**

may not be covered under this guarantee. For more detailed instruction on proper tool care, please review our respective tool guides in the References section of www.trowandholden.com.

If you believe your tool has a manufacturing or materials defect, please contact Trow & Holden immediately. **Never use a tool if there is a question about its condition or performance.**