

ULTRA ACCESS

Scaffold Spanner vs "Scaffolders" Impact Wrench

Exploring the pro's and con's for each of the 2 critical scaffold tools

Scaffold Spanner



"Scaffolders"
Impact
Wrench

Scaffolders use 2 main tools to ply their trade:

The (more traditional) "**Scaffold Spanner**" - which is modelled on the imperial 7/16th (of an inch) Whitworth Scaffold Spanner - now 21mm under the metric system and the (more modern) battery operated electric "**Impact Wrench**" with a 21mm socket attachment.

Scaffold Spanners can be bought online, and in some high-street tool shops, but we would always recommend [Leachs.com](https://www.leachs.com) as the go-to to purchase your scaffold tools and equipment.

Impact Wrenches are the same, with our recommendation to use "brushless" 18v-types, along with 4.0Ah Li-Ion rechargeable batteries. (recommendation only)

What are the pro's and con's of each:

	Scaffold Spanner	Impact Wrench
Are they easy to use ?	YES(ish)	YES
Can they be used in all weather conditions ?	YES	YES(ish)
Do they help with repepitve strain injuries ?	NO	YES(ish)
Are they lightweight and easy to carry?	YES	NO
Can they be easily dropped from height ?	YES(ish)	YES(ish)
Could prolonged use be a health risk ?	YES(ish)	YES

As you can see, its a mixed bag, with there being benefits and issues in using both, with the biggest risk for the **Scaffold Spanner** being muscular-skeletal / repetitive strain injuries over time, and noise / eventual hearing damage for the "**Scaffolders**" **Impact Wrench** (not to mention HAVS).

Our advice? Get used to carrying both and try to use them equally and in moderation, choosing to use whichever one suits the situation you are in at the time...