

At The Home Depot no good deed goes unpunished.

I have been a Home Depot sales associate in the electrical and plumbing departments for nearly 9 years. I have used my time and my car and my gas to do several off-site kids workshops without compensation.

I also spent my own time and money to develop a safety cable cutter device to prevent children from chopping off their fingers as the cable cutters were within their easy reach.

And what do I get in return? A promotion? A raise in pay? None of the above. I got fired. I was forced out by an assistant manager who has hated me for some time.

I don't know why as I never did anything to her. In fact when I made the cutter safety device and presented it to the manager for approval (about a year ago) she tried to persuade the manager NOT to have me install it and was visibly disappointed when he overruled her. That's more than sad. That's SICK.

The Home Depot also cheated me out of (did not pay) vacation and personal time I had earned and refused to give me full-time status to help pay the many bills I had when my wife died unexpectedly at age 49 a little over a year ago.

The Home Depot has become a very ugly place for both customers and employees and so I guess I didn't want to work for a place like that anyway.

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I've developed a device to insure safety of wire/cable cutters...Especially with children around. Please see attachment for photos.

Here's how it works:

When the green LED (Light Emitting Diode) is on the cutters are in place out of reach of children and the alarm buzzer is disabled (stays off).

If the cutters are removed the alarm buzzer will sound. To prevent the alarm buzzer from sounding the store number 4026 must be entered on the keypad at the lower right hand corner of the mounting platform.*

When the number is entered correctly the red LED will turn on. This indicates that the user has three (3) minutes to replace the cutters in the holder or the alarm buzzer will sound.

Previously (one photo) the cutters were hung on the wire measuring device with the sharp jaws partially open within easy reach of small children. The cutter safety device places the cutters out of the reach of children as well as discourages customers from cutting their own wire.

This is not a costly or complicated device. In production it would probably sell for \$75-150 depending on the quality and number of features. In fact, just the fact that customers would be discouraged from stealing wire this device could pay for itself in a few weeks.