

## USING A HATCHET

There are several types of axe, from a small, hand hatchet to a log splitting wedge. The one thing you need to begin with is a little math. First, count your fingers and toes. When you finish at the end of the day, recount. If the number is less than your initial count, you may want to make a phone call.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

- With your parents' observation and direction, use a hatchet to cut through a small trunk or thick branch, little by little. Do this twice.
- Use a hatchet to split a piece of wood. Use a hammer on the rear of the head, if your hatchet is designed to be used in such a way.

All joking aside, an axe is designed to cut easily through wood. It will have no trouble with your tender flesh. Whenever you use an item like this, you have what I like to call "The Kill Zone." That is an imaginary area around you where someone could literally be killed by you, if they inadvertently step in the way. Always make sure you are keeping yourself and others safe.

Now, that hatchet is a useful tool to take on a camping trip or the lake and is an ideal tool for cutting and splitting fire wood.

- A hatchet is a short axe. So if push comes to shove, you can cut down a small tree with a hatchet. The trick here is accuracy before force. Swing the axe sideways into the trunk of the tree and land in the same place each time. Otherwise you'll end up with a collection of cuts rather than a large wedge.

- You are more likely to use a hatchet to cut firewood. For this, place the target wood onto a cutting surface, such as a tree stump, and again, accuracy before power and always safety first.

- If you have cut-up logs and you want to cut up kindling, you'll want to strike the top of the log. Hitting the center of the rings will work with the grain of the wood and make splitting a whole lot easier.

- Many small axes and hatchets are designed with a strike plate at the rear of the blade. This way you can get the blade started and easily hit the back using the wedge of the blade to split the wood.

