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#EISENWARENMESSE

EISENWARENMESSE - International Hardware Fair Cologne 2026: Trends and innovations in the hardware industry

EISENWARENMESSE - International Hardware Fair provides an unparalleled opportunity for discovering what's next in the hardware industry. From 3 to 6 March 2026, more than 2,600 international exhibitors from 48 countries will present a wide range of new products in Cologne's exhibition halls. Trade professionals and buyers from all over the world will gain a comprehensive overview of the latest trends and products - ranging from tools, accessories and building materials to DIY and industrial supplies, fittings, fasteners and fixings. A glimpse at the key themes and new products shows the market and industry trends that will define the trade fair.

Safety first: Better protection, reduced risk

Safety is at the heart of everything in the hardware industry. Today's tool lines combine user-friendly design and higher safety standards. Intelligent design enhances the safety of work equipment - from locking pliers with improved pumping action and spades with reinforced foot treads to telescopic ladders with a wider base. There are also new lifting devices and heavy-duty suspension systems for moving furniture. Peace of mind is also provided by 3D alarm sensors and the latest Bluetooth technology for locks and door openers.

Better for your body: Improved ergonomics and health protection

Health is a megatrend - and that includes the hardware industry. That is why many tools now feature ergonomic upgrades for easier handling. Examples include pliers and bending tools that have been optimised to minimise physical strain and promote better posture. In addition, quieter mixers for concrete and mortar, and work clothing with improved UV protection provide increased health protection. Non-toxic building materials free from hazardous substances also enable healthier working conditions and easier disposal.

Compact class: Mini tools

New compact versions of well-established tools and equipment also make work easier. The key advantage is their lightweight construction, which lets you work longer without getting tired - perfect for tasks like sawing, welding or stripping wires. These streamlined products are also ideal for smaller hands and tight workspaces. In these cramped areas, compact handheld vacuums and high-pressure cleaners truly shine, delivering powerful performance in a small size. Convenient battery stations provide efficient energy for these tools. A sustainable side effect of these smaller products is that they require less material and shipping space, resulting in lower CO2 emissions.



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Your contact:
Melanie Bessert
Tel.
+49 221 821-2486
e-mail
M.Bessert@koelnmesse.de

Koelnmesse GmbH
Messeplatz 1
50679 Köln
P.O. Box 21 07 60
50532 Köln
Germany
Tel. +49 221 821-0
Fax +49 221 821-2574
www.koelnmesse.com

Executive Board:
Gerald Böse (President and Chief
Executive Officer)
Oliver Frese

Headquarters and place of
jurisdiction:
Cologne
District Court Cologne, HRB 952

Longer service life: Recycling and waste reduction

Speaking of sustainability, environmentally friendly solutions continue to be in high demand. This is evident in the increased use of post-consumer recycled plastics for tool parts and toolboxes. New cartridges or packaging for nails and screws made from recyclable paper contain little or no plastic. Used yarns and textiles are also being repurposed in new work clothing lines. Refining tool accessories like sanding belts and saw blades also reduces waste by extending their service life.

Adaptable tools: Versatile solutions

If there is one constant in the construction industry, it's change. New materials and building products are constantly appearing on the market. That's why modern tools can adapt accordingly. Examples include innovative interchangeable systems for blades, mixers and drill attachments. Cordless chargers offer similar flexibility for a wide range of professional applications. New ultrasonic cleaners also provide added versatility, cleaning everything from complex machinery and sensitive electronics to large construction equipment.

Fresh colours: Trend-conscious design

Fashion and home furnishing trends are also shaping innovations in the hardware industry. Tools today draw inspiration from natural colour palettes. Black finishes are also trending, highlighting premium quality and modern design. At the same time, vibrant colours brighten up the otherwise muted palette of tools and accessories. So a hammer might now come in bright pink - a fashion statement that also makes the tool easy to spot on a construction site.

Discover more trends and innovations in the hardware industry from 3 to 6 March 2026 in Cologne. EISENWARENMESSE - International Hardware Fair will once again showcase innovations that make construction and DIY work even safer, healthier and more sustainable.

Koelnmesse - industry trade fairs for the hardware sector: As a top international trade fair organiser, Koelnmesse is the global market leader for events in the tools and hardware sector. Cologne is home to the EISENWARENMESSE - INTERNATIONAL HARDWARE FAIR, the world's leading trade fair for the industry. Asia-Pacific Sourcing, the largest sourcing platform outside of Asia, also showcases its products there. Koelnmesse is also expanding its international portfolio in key markets. The China International Hardware Show in Shanghai, International Hardware Fair Italy in Bergamo, International Hardware Fair India in New Delhi and El Gran Salón Ferretero in Colombia are tailored events and leading regional trade fairs with international participation. The successful launches of the International Hardware Fair Indonesia in Jakarta and the International Hardware Fair Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in 2025 marked the addition of further events in strategically important growth markets: www.hardware-worldwide.com.

Note for editorial offices:

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Your contact:

Melanie Bessert
Public and Media Relations Manager

Koelnmesse GmbH
Messeplatz 1
50679 Cologne
Germany
Phone: + 49 221 821-2486
m.bessert@koelnmesse.de
www.koelnmesse.com