

Woodworking Safety

Ten Rules for all Wood Workers...

- 1) **Think Before You Cut** – The most powerful tool in your shop is your brain, use it. Thinking your cuts and movements through before acting can help save both fingers and scrap wood.
- 2) **Keep a Clean Shop** – A cluttered shop is an accident waiting to happen. Keeping your shop clean will help protect you, and your tools, from tripping hazards.
- 3) **Avoid Distractions** – Pay attention to your actions. Looking up to watch the shop TV or visitor can result in your hand contacting the blade. Always wait until you have completed your cut before you take your eyes off the blade.
- 4) **Don't Rush** – Keep in mind that this is just a hobby and take a break when you feel rushed or frustrated with a project. Mistakes happen when we rush to complete a job.
- 5) **Don't Force It** – If your saw is resisting the cut, stop and see what's wrong. A misaligned rip fence or improperly seated throat plate can sometimes cause a board to get stuck in mid cut. Forcing the board in these situations may cause kickback or contact with the blade. Take a moment to evaluate the situation and determine the problem.
- 6) **Protect Yourself** – Wearing the proper shop protection is an important part of safe tool operation. Goggles, Ear Protection, and Lung Protection should be used when operating tools. Use push sticks when working close to the blade and make sure the tool's safety features are in place.
- 7) **Let the Tool Stop** – Giving the power tool time to wind down after a cut is an often-overlooked safety mistake. Even without power, the spinning blade can still do a lot of damage.
- 8) **Fumes and Dust** – Solvent fumes and airborne dust can present health and explosion hazards. Care should be taken to ensure a supply of fresh air and use only explosion proof vent fans.
- 9) **Wear Appropriate Clothing** – Loose clothing or hair can get caught in power tools and cause severe injury.
- 10) **No Alcohol** – Too many woodworkers have been injured because Alcohol clouded their judgment. Avoid their mistakes and wait until after you're done in the shop.

Usage guides for select machines...

Table Saw

- Feed with body to side of stock
- Ensure correct blade height
- Use splitter and antikickback fingers for ripping.
- Use with stock firm against fence
- Remove rip fence for crosscuts
- Use blade guards

Jointer/Planer

- Check depth of cut
- Use minimum length of stock
- Ensure cutters are sharp
- Ensure hands do not pass over cutters
- Use push stick for small stock
- Check all guards

Circular Saw

- Use blade guards
- Do not let the blade bind
- Use correct type blade
- Make sure blade is tight on arbor.
- Use firm support for work.
- Ensure no obstructions.

Band Saw

- Feed with body to side of stock
- Set guard height for 0.125-inch (0.31-centimeters) clearance
- Use correct tension and proper type of blade
- Release cuts before long curves
- Use flat stock
- Stop machine to remove scrap or pull out incomplete cut

FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURE'S INSTRUCTIONS!

Wait a minute...I am not a wood worker, how does this apply to me?

Look at the "Ten Rules" listed to the left. These overall concepts can keep you safe in a wide range of activities. Substitute your activity's tools or equipment for the terms you don't recognize from the "Ten Rules" and it will serve you well.