

Shop Safety Rules



General

- Eye protection shall be worn at all times when operating power equipment and tools.
- Report all equipment defects immediately. Do not use unsafe equipment until it is repaired.
- When disconnecting equipment, pull on the plug, not the cord. Whenever the use of electrical extension cords is required, keep them clean, dry, and free from kinks. Protect them from oil, hot or sharp surfaces, and chemicals. Exterior cords should not be extended across aisles, through water, doors, or into areas where they are apt to be damaged.
- Use equipment properly; do not overload the motor by forcing cutting tools into the work.
- Do not leave power tools unattended while in operation.
- Portable electric circular and band saws shall not be used unless the guard mechanism is functioning properly.
- Long hair and loose clothes must be restrained in a manner that will not allow them to be caught in machines.

Woodworking Machines

- Workers shall make sure that guards or other protective devices for woodworking machines are in place and properly adjusted before starting work. Workers shall not operate woodworking machines with cracked or defective blades or cutters.
- Operators of woodworking machines SHALL NOT WEAR GLOVES unless the point of operation is completely guarded and contact with the blade, or moving parts, is not possible.
- A push stick or block shall be used for any operation which requires the fingers to be within 2 inches of the blade. Dust or wood scrap should not be removed from the danger area by hand. Always use a brush.
- Saw operators should not stand in line with material to be cut.
- The operator's position should be kept clear of sawdust, blocks, etc., at all times.
- Kickbacks on table saws are extremely hazardous. The following conditions may lead to injury:
 - Improper alignment of the rip fence.
 - Failure to use a spreader.
 - Crosscutting narrow stock while using the rip fence as a stop.
 - Attempting to rip or crosscut stock which is too large to control.
 - Cutting warped, wet or twisted grain lumber which binds the blade.
 - Failure to use anti-kickback dogs.
 - Attempting to rip stock that does not have at least one straight edge for use against the fence.
 - Failure to lock the fence securely in place.
 - Using a dull or improperly set blade.
 - Using a blade that is out of round, or improperly balanced.

Grinding Machines

- Face shields, safety glasses, or chipper's goggles shall be worn at all times when grinding or using a wire brush.
- Gloves shall not be worn while grinding, nor will cloth be used to hold work pieces.
- Do not operate grinding machines unless metal wheel hoods are in place. Do not apply work too quickly to a cold wheel.
- Tool rests shall be secured at all times and adjusted to within 1/8 inch of the wheel.
- Top wheel guards shall be adjusted to within 1/4 inch of the top of the wheel.
- When a grinder is first turned on, do not stand in line with the grinding wheel. If any wobble or vibration is noticed, the machine must be turned off and repaired.
- Except where specifically designed, one should not grind on the sides of the grinder.