

Table Saw Safety

Only trained and authorized workers are permitted to use table saws.

Plan your work. If unsure about the safety of the cut, stop and ask for assistance. Improper use of table saws can cause serious injury. Know and follow all safe use instructions provided in the owner's manual.

Wear the following personal protective equipment when using the table saw:

- Eye protection
- Hearing protection

Set-up the table saw

Use the proper blades for the type of work being done. Keep blades clean, sharp and properly set.

Ensure the blade guard and anti-kickback devices (kickback fingers, splitters, spreaders, and riving knives) are in place. When authorized by a Supervisor to remove these safety devices for cutting operations where they cannot be used, safe work practices must be established using safety devices such as templates, jigs, push sticks, feather boards or other similar devices.

Limit exposure to blade. If the blade guard is not self-adjusting, manually adjust the blade guard to be as close as practicable to the work piece. Keep the bottom of the blade gullet only about 1/4" higher than the work piece being cut.

Ensure table saw table and surroundings are clean and free of hazards. Ensure other persons are not in the line of a possible kickback. Ensure the work area is well-lit and not congested.

Be careful when waxing, cleaning or servicing the table saw. Shut off and unplug (follow lockout procedures) before doing any maintenance work on the table saw.

Ensure there is adequate support to hold the work piece; use extension tables or roller supports for larger pieces.

Always make sure that push sticks are within easy reach.

Cutting

Ensure your attention is on the task. Do not allow yourself to be distracted when operating the table saw. Keep your body to the side of the saw blade, out of the line of a possible kickback.

Keep your fingers away from the blade cover. For most cuts this requires the use of push sticks, push pads or similar devices. During cutting, keep hands out of the line of the saw cut.

If the board jams during a cut, use one hand to turn off the saw. Finish the cut with an alternate method such as a band saw.

NEVER perform any operation "free-hand" which means using your hands to support or guide the work piece. Always use either the fence or miter gage to position and guide the work.

Never reach around or over a running, unguarded blade.

When crosscutting, do not use the rip fence as a stop.

After Completing the Work

Never leave the table saw unattended while the saw blade is in motion. Turn off the power and make sure the saw blade comes to a complete stop before leaving the area. Ensure that any guards, splitters and other kick back protection devices are in place

Clean up the table saw area.