

GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR TODAY'S WOODWORKER

1. Always wear approved personal safety apparatus such as safety glasses, ear plugs and a dust mask. It's good to have goggles or /face shields for those operations that really throw chips.
2. Before operating any machine, remove all loose clothing and roll up your sleeves above the elbows and confine long hair. **DO NOT WEAR GLOVES** when using rotating or reciprocating machines. Always wear shoes that cover the top of your feet.
3. Keep the floor around the machines clean and free of scrap material, sawdust, oil, wax and grease. Make sure that all extra equipment such as keys, wrenches, scrap, and anything else that might interfere with the cut have been removed and are out of the way.
4. Keep the machine guards in place at all times. If the guards are removed for maintenance or any special reasons make sure that you use extreme caution and replace the guards immediately.
5. **DO NOT** over reach. Maintain a balanced stance at all times, so that you do not fall or lean against blades or other moving parts. Always position yourself with the kick back zone in mind.
6. Be aware that each tool has a limitation. Use the correct tool. Do not cut smaller or larger material than the tool is designed for. Do not force a tool attachment, guard or hold down to do more than it was designed to do.
7. Make sure that the motor switch is in the OFF position before connecting the machine to the power supply. Always unplug any machine before changing cutters and blades. Make sure all adjustments and changes are tightened properly.
9. Give your work your undivided attention. Looking around, carrying on a conversation and "horseplay" are careless acts that can result in serious injury.
10. Be aware of the kickback zones. Take every precaution to protect yourself and others around you.
11. Always keep your hands and fingers away from blades, rotating parts, pinch points, electrical plugs, and maintain the 12" and 3" rule.
12. Use push sticks, hold-downs and featherboards when possible. Use suitable support if the stock does not have a flat surface. Make sure all material is held firmly on the table and against any fence.
13. Never remove small cut-offs, chips or scrap that lie next to any rotating blade or cutter until the blade or cutter has come to a **COMPLETE** stop.
14. You must be wide awake and alert. Never operate a machine when you are over-tired or ill. And never use equipment under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
15. Think through the operation before performing it. Know what you're going to do, and what the machine will do.
16. Always allow the machine to reach its full operating speed before starting to feed the work. Feed the work carefully and only as fast as the machine will cut it easily.
17. Never leave a machine running and unattended.
18. If a machine is not performing properly, or out of adjustment in some way, shut the power off immediately, unplug the machine and then troubleshoot the problem.