



TABLE SAW SAFETY RULES

Although the table saw is one of the most useful machines for woodworking, it is also one of the most dangerous. It can be used to accurately rip and crosscut lumber and sheet goods. The table saw can also be used for special operations including cutting dadoes and rabbets and for resawing. With the use of special jigs, joinery like tenons and box joints can be made. In addition, the blade can be tilted for cutting bevels and miters.

The typical table saw uses a 10" blade. Depending on the saw, the blade may tilt to the right or to the left. Do not use the table saw until you have been trained by your instructor to do so.



- On-edge re-sawing requires special permission from the instructor or shop supervisor.
- The saw guard must always be in place over the blade except when the instructor has authorized its removal for special set-ups.
- When cutting, the saw blade should project $\frac{1}{4}$ ", or enough to clear the gullets, above the stock you are cutting.
- All adjustments are to be made only while the saw is at a complete stop.
- After completing a cut, lift your free hand from the table. Do not drag your hand across the table.
- You must use a push stick when ripping (cutting with the grain) narrow pieces that are 8" or less in width.
- Freehand cutting, ripping or crosscutting without using the fence or miter gauge is forbidden.
- Normally when you are ripping wood, the scrap wood must be to the outside of the blade to reduce the possibility of a kickback.
- Your fingers must be kept clear of the track of the saw, and your hands should never cross the saw line while the machine is in operation.
- Reaching over the saw blade or passing wood over the saw blade while the saw is in motion is forbidden.
- When you are crosscutting a number of pieces to the same length, a clearance block should be fastened to the rip fence at least 2" in front of the saw blade.
- When helping to "tail-off", the helper must remember their only purpose is to support the stock. The operator pushes the stock through the machine.
- If it is necessary to clear the table of scraps of lumber, make sure the blade is stopped and completely lowered. Use a brush, push stick, or a scrap of stock to clear scrap. Do not use your hands.
- Before the power is turned on, the instructor must inspect all special set-ups.
- A "V" block must be used when cutting cylindrical stock.
- Backing the wood away from the blade while the saw is running will throw the wood toward you. If it is necessary to remove the wood, always stop the saw first.
- Work should always be held firmly against the fence or miter gauge.
- The fence is used for ripping only.
- The miter gauge is used for crosscutting only.
- The fence and miter gauge are never used at the same time, except when multiple cuts of the same size are made, and this is accomplished by means of a clearance block and must be approved by the instructor.
- Push stock completely through and clear of blade when ripping or a kickback will result.
- Inspect the blade before using it, to make sure it is the proper blade and is sharp and free from cracks.
- Make sure that you clean up thoroughly around the saw before leaving the area.