







Safe Work Procedure

Table Saw Safety

RSS 18.33.3

Program/Services	Safe Work Procedures		Department: Risk and Safety Services
Personal Protective Equipment or Devices Used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Glasses • Work Boots • Close fitting clothing or protective clothing must be worn (no baggy clothing) • Jewellery and watches should NOT be worn • Disposable Respirators (N95) should be worn when conditions are very dusty • Hearing Protection • Wear a N95 dust mask if cutting operations creates a dusty environment 	Training Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class safety training • Hands-on shop training 	Applicable Documents	Effective Date: April 25, 2019
			Date Reviewed
			Revision Date Revision # Authorized
			Aug. 26, 2024 3 Safety Advisor

ELECTRICAL HAZARD  Do not attempt to service electrical wires.	PINCH POINTS  Use LOCK-OUT procedures when performing maintenance or conducting any work within 12" of an exposed pinch point. NEVER put your hands or feet near an exposed pinch point or gears!	HIGH SOUND LEVELS  HEARING PROTECTION is required when working in designated. Required when Sound levels exceed 85 dB areas.	FOOT INJURY  Approved protective footwear is required when there is the risk of foot injury due to slipping, uneven terrain, and abrasion, crushing potential, temperature extremes, corrosive substances, puncture hazards, electrical shock and any other recognizable hazard.
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SAFE WORK PROCEDURES

TABLE SAW

- **Do Not** work on a table saw when you are alone.
- Wear safety glasses, goggles or a face shield at all times while using the saw.
- If the cutting operation is dusty, wear a N95 dust mask.
- **Do Not** wear gloves while operating a table saw.
- Keep loose hair, clothing, jewelry and anything that could get caught in the saw tied back.
- Wear non slip steel toe foot wear.
- Before the cut, set the depth of the saw to 1/8" thicker than material.
- Use a push stick to cut stock that is 150 cm or less in width.
- Use a stop block when you crosscut short lengths.
- Position your body so that it is **NOT** in line with the blade. This is to avoid being injured by flying sawdust, woodchips, or the work piece.
- Always stand firmly on the floor and avoid any awkward operations. This is to avoid falling into the blade by slipping or losing your balance.
- **Do Not** carry on a conversation while cutting. Pay attention to the work being performed.
- **Do Not** reach behind or over the blade unless it has come to a complete stop.
- **Do Not** leave the saw until the blade has come to a complete stop.
- Make sure the blade has stopped turning before you adjust the table saw.
- After any adjustment, make sure that the blade is free before you turn on the power.
- Always disconnect the power prior to changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation.
- **Never** cut stock with a dull blade.
- Ensure the guides are positioned properly and that the tabletop is smooth and polished. An unclean or rough table requires you to use more force to push the stock through the blade. The more force that you are required to use the more chance that you may slip or lose your balance.
- Maintain the rip fence parallel to the blade so the stock will not bind on the blade and be thrown.
- Check the throat plate to ensure that it fits exactly and has a slot just slightly larger than the blade. Never operate a table saw with the throat plate removed.
- **Do Not** make free-hand cuts on the table saw. The stock must be guided through the blade either by the rip fence or the miter gauge.
- Keep the blades' guards, spreaders and anti-kickback devices in place and operating properly. The spreader must be in alignment with the blade and the anti-kickback device must be in place and operating properly. Their action must be checked prior to cutting.
- Only seasoned, dry flat wood should be cut.
- Work pieces should be released only when it has gone past the blade.
- Whenever the stock is lifted or tilted above the surface of the table, the saw can shake the stock, causing you to lose your grip.
- Losing your grip on a piece means that your hand can slip towards the saw blade or the work can be forcefully kicked back towards you.
- Check the stock has no nails, knots, screws, stones etc. in it prior to cutting into the wood. These items can become projectiles and cause injury.
- **Do Not** use the fence and the miter gauge at the same time, unless they are both on the same side of the fence.

- A circular table saw should be guarded with a hood (crown guard) that completely covers the blade projecting above the table. The guard should ride the thickness of the stock being cut, adjusting to the thickness of the stock.
- The fence must not be adjusted while the saw is running.
- While long stock is sometimes crosscut on a table saw, it is not a good practice. The long stock may interfere with other operations and may be a hazard to other workers or equipment. It is also difficult to support and is better cut on a swing saw, pull saw or radial arm saw.
- If the use of a guard on woodworking machinery is clearly impracticable for a specific operation, the guard may be removed, but an appropriate push stick, jig, feather board or similar device must be used to prevent the operator encroaching into the cutting area, and upon completion of the operation the guard must be replaced. A guard may otherwise only be removed if the guard itself creates a hazard, or if its removal is necessary for maintenance.

SAFE RIPPING PROCEDURES

- Wear safety glasses, goggles or a face shield at all times while using the saw.
- If the cutting operation is dusty, wear a dust mask.
- **Do Not** wear gloves while operating a table saw.
- **Avoid** long sleeves, ties, dangling jewelry or any other loose fitting clothing while operating a table saw. The clothing could get caught in the blade.
- Wear non-slip footwear.
- Maintain the rip fence parallel to the blade so the stock will not bind on the blade and be thrown.
- Keep the blade sharp. Replace or sharpen anti-kickback devices when the points become dull.
- Keep the blades guards, spreaders and anti-kickback devices in place and operating properly. The spreader must be in alignment with the blade and the anti-kickback device must be in place and operating properly.
- Cut material that is seasoned, dry and flat.
- Release work only when it has been pushed completely past the blade.
- When the width of the rip is 6 inches or wider, use your right hand to feed the work piece until it is clear of the table. Only use the left hand to guide the work piece - do not feed the work piece with the left hand.
- When the width of the rip is less than 2 inches, the push stick cannot be used because the guard will interfere. Use the auxiliary fence-work support and push block. Use the two C clamps to attach the auxiliary work-fence support the rip fence.
- When the width of the rip is 2 to 6 inches, use the push stick to feed the work.

RECORDS/VERIFICATION OF UNDERSTANDING

Records

- All training records will be maintained by the Instructor or Supervisor

Verification of Understanding

- A training master log will be maintained by Instructor, Chairperson, or Supervisor

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Revision #	Date	Change	Issued By
1	03/04/2014	NEW	OHS Officer
2	04/25/2019	Review, Revisions and New Format	Safety Officer
3	08/26/2024	RSS update	Safety Advisor