

Circular Power Saw Safety

SP16

The following must be read in conjunction with SP01 General Workshop Safety Rules.

Circular power saws are one of the most dangerous woodworking power tools. They can inflict very serious injuries; usually to the legs.

Circular Power Saw Safety Rules

Note: The following applies to circular power saws used in the hand held mode.

1. Always wear eye protection, dust mask and hearing protection.
2. Always unplug the saw before carrying out actions such as: checking the condition of the blade, changing the blade, changing depth of cut and fitting / adjusting the parallel guide.
3. Set the saw cutting depth such that the blade will project less than a tooth height below the stock to be cut.
4. Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe. *Ask the equipment maintenance officer to investigate.*
5. Never attempt to cut a curved cut. This will cause kick-back with the risk of serious injury.
6. Never hold the blade guard open while the saw is running.
7. Do not force the saw during a cutting operation. Forcing can cause kick-back.
8. Never attempt to do long free-hand cuts. When cutting sheet material, support the saw against a clamped straight guide board or use the saw's parallel guide if practical.
9. Only cut stock that is securely clamped and supported. When cutting sheet material, ensure that the sheet is securely supported and clamped on both sides of the cutting line, so that there will be no relative movement between the opposite sides of the cut. Movement such as sagging can bind the blade and cause kick-back.
10. Always check that there is no obstruction in the planned path of the blade before starting a cut. e.g. when cutting sheet material look under the sheet to check that the planned cutting path is not obstructed by the structure supporting the sheet.
11. If you plan to make a long cut in timber stock, ask another member to be ready to insert a wedge (e.g. large flat blade screw driver) into the cut to prevent the blade from binding.
12. Always check the position of the power cord before commencing a cut and ensure that it will not be in the path of the cut or become snagged during the cutting operation.
13. Never stand behind the saw when cutting. Stand to one side.
14. Never overreach when cutting. Keep proper footing and balance at all times. If you are going to overreach consider a different cutting strategy.
15. Never set the saw down until it has completely stopped.

Warning to Left Handed Users- If you are left handed use extreme care when using a circular power saw. Most circular power saws are designed for use by right handed persons.

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