

General Machine Operating Safety Tips

What should you do before using woodworking machines?

Woodworking tools can be dangerous if not used properly.

Only use woodworking machines that you have been trained to use properly and safely.

Make sure you understand instructions before attempting to use any tool or machine. Ask questions if you have any doubts about doing the work safely.

What safety procedures should you follow when using woodworking machines?

- Always wear safety glasses or goggles
- Wear dust masks when required.
- Wear hearing protection that is suitable for the level and frequency of the noise you are exposed to in the woodworking area. If you have trouble hearing someone speak from three feet away, the noise level from the machine is too high. Damage to hearing may occur.
- Make sure the guard is in position, is in good working condition, and guards the machine adequately before operating any equipment or machine. Check all other safety devices.
- Make sure the equipment is properly grounded before use. Is the ground prong (the round one) intact?
- Check that keys and adjusting wrenches are removed from the machine before turning on the power.
- Inspect stock for nails or other materials before cutting, planing, routing or carrying out similar activities.
- Use a "push stick" to push material into the cutting area. Jigs are also useful in keeping hands safe during cutting procedures. Keep hands out of the line of the cutting blade.
- Clamp down and secure all work pieces when drilling or milling.
- Ensure that the floor space around the equipment is sufficient to enable you to machine the size of work piece being processed safely without bumping into other workers or equipment.

What should you avoid when working with woodworking machines?

- Do not wear loose clothing, work gloves, neckties, rings, bracelets or other jewellery that can become entangled with moving parts.
- Avoid awkward operations and hand positions where a sudden slip could cause your hand to move into the cutting tool or blade.
- Do not remove sawdust or cuttings from the cutting head by hand while a machine is running. Use a stick or brush when the machine has stopped moving.
- Do not use compressed air to remove sawdust, turnings, etc. from machines or clothing.
- Do not leave machines running unattended (unless they are designed and intended to be operated while unattended). Do not leave a machine until the power off is turned off and the machine comes to a complete stop.
- Do not distract or startle an operator while he or she is using woodworking equipment.

Give the work your undivided attention.

