



Tools & Machines – Saws – Circular

All employees and students must receive documented training before operating any type of saw. Woodworking is DANGEROUS. Safe and proper operating procedures must be learned and followed.



Using the saw with respect and caution will considerably lessen the possibility of personal injury. If normal safety precautions are overlooked or ignored, severe injury may result.

General Safety Guidelines

1. Wear the proper personal protective equipment:
 - a. Safety glasses, goggles, and, when necessary, a face shield. Note: the use of a face shield by itself does not qualify as wearing appropriate eye protection.
 - b. Hearing protection devices when power tools and woodworking machines are in use even if you are not the operator.
 - c. Appropriate shop attire when using hand and power tools including full-length pants (or equivalent) and closed-toe shoes.
 - d. Tight-fitting work gloves only for handling materials. Never wear gloves while working with power tools.
 - e. Consult with the EH&S Department and refer to the UC PPE Policy for more information.
2. Leave your rings, watches, necklaces, other jewelry, and loose clothing in your locker or bag.
3. Restrain long hair to keep it away from machinery, tools, and points of operation.
4. Always exercise caution; if a procedure feels dangerous or you do not understand the task and saw interface, get advice from your instructor or supervisor.
5. Inspect the saw before each use. Ensure the casing is not cracked, the handles are secure, and the power cord is in good condition.
6. Never use a faulty saw. Lockout the saw, and report it to your supervisor or instructor.
7. Never change the saw blade until ensuring the switch is turned off and the power cord unplugged from the power source.
8. Set the cutting depth as shallow as possible to keep the exposure of the blade below the cut to a minimum.
9. Never carry the saw with your finger on the trigger switch.
10. Keep your second hand away from the blade; place it on the auxiliary handle or motor housing.
11. Never reach underneath the work or place your hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.
12. Never stand or have any part of your body in line with the path of the saw blade, and never reach behind or over the saw with either hand for any reason.
13. Maintain firm footing; never overreach to complete the cut.
14. Never begin cutting before checking for obstructions, such as nails and screws.
15. Never start the saw with the work-piece pressed against the blade.

16. Never perform any operation “free-hand.” Always use a rip fence or guide, clamped or nailed to the stock, to position and guide the work during ripping operations.
17. Avoid kickbacks (work thrown back toward you); keep the blade sharp; keep the rip fence parallel to the saw blade; never force the saw during cutting.
18. Never attempt to free a stalled saw blade until first turning the saw “off” and unplugging it from its power source.
19. Ensure the blade has stopped, and the lower blade guard is in place before setting the saw down.

Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about this information.