



Table Saw General Safety Rules and Procedures

1. Wear **safety glasses**, goggles or a face shield at all times while using the saw.
2. If the cutting operation is dusty, wear a **dust mask**.
3. Do not wear **gloves** while operating a table saw.
4. 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.
5. Wear non-slip footwear.
6. Make sure there are no scrap pieces or chips on the **floor in front of the table saw**, or lodged between the fence and the blade.
7. 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.
8. Do not carry on a conversation while cutting. Pay attention to the work being performed.
9. Do not reach behind or over the blade unless it has stopped turning.
10. Do not leave the saw until the blade has come to a complete stop.
11. Make sure that the blade has **stopped turning before adjusting** the table saw.
12. After any adjustment, make sure that the **blade is free** before you turn on the power.
13. The fence must not be adjusted while the saw is running. Make sure fence is always locked prior to operation.
14. Always **disconnect** the power prior to changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation.
15. Position your body so that it is **NOT in line with the blade or directly** behind the area **between the fence and the blade (Kick-back Zone)**. This is to avoid being injured by flying sawdust, woodchips or the work.
16. The height of the blade **should be set just slightly higher than the stock being cut**. It should **never be more than 1/8" above the height** of the stock. This is to ensure that if your hand slip you only receive a slight cut and do not lose a limb.
17. Only seasoned, dry, **flat wood** should be cut.
18. Check that the stock has no **nails, knots screw, stones** etc. in it prior to cutting into the wood. These items can become projectiles and cause injury.
19. Ensure that the **guides are positioned properly** and that the **table top 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.
20. Maintain the **rip fence parallel to the blade** so the stock will not bind on the blade and be thrown.
21. 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
22. Do not make **free-hand cuts** on the table saw. The stock must be guided through the blade either by the rip fence, the miter gauge, or on the crosscut sled.

23. Use a **push stick** to cut stock that is 10" or less in width.
24. When **ripping stock, use the fence**. When **crosscutting** stock, **use the miter gauge or crosscutting sled**.
25. Do not use the **fence and a miter gauge at the same time**, unless they are both on the same side of the fence.
26. Work 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 toward the saw blade or the work can be forcefully kicked back towards you.
27. 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 miter saw.