

Wood & General Shop Safety Rules

ONLY TRAINED AND AUTHORIZED OPERATORS MAY OPERATE DRI WOOD SHOP TOOLS/EQUIPMENT. Training may be formal (classroom, machinist union apprenticeship, etc.) or on-the-job, but it must be documented and it must include training on each piece of equipment to be used. Training documentation must be forwarded to shop supervisor or equipment owner before use is granted.

KEY POINTS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. **State of Mind.** Do not operate power tools when you are ill, taking strong medications, fatigued or consuming alcoholic drinks. Do not smoke while working with tools.
2. **Remove all jewelry,** including rings, necklaces, bracelets and watches that could get caught in tooling before starting work.
3. **Wear proper clothing for the type of work being done.** Do not wear loose-fitting clothes or jewelry that can get caught in moving parts. Do not roll up long sleeves. Do not wear highly flammable clothes. Do not wear sandals, open-toed or canvas shoes. Wearing safety-toed shoes is preferable for protection of feet and toes.
4. **Safety Glasses** must be worn at all times in the shop. Some operations may require additional eye protection or other personal protective equipment
5. **Protect your eyes, face, head, and scalp.** At a minimum, wear industrial-quality safety glasses with side shields. (Safety glasses must have the Z87.1 logo on them to assure they qualify as impact resistant.) Add a face shield or wear impact resistant goggles if flying particles are expected during the machining process. For welding, wear eye and face protection appropriate for the kind of work being conducted. Pull back long hair in a band or a cap to keep it from getting caught in tools.
6. **Hair.** Pull back long hair in a band and tuck it under your shirt collar or a cap to keep it from getting caught in tools. Long beards must also be contained.
7. **Avoid distractions.** Keep your mind on your work. Talking or listening to the radio while running machinery can lead to accidents. Stop working and turn off the power tool you are working with if distracted by something or someone. Never look away from your work when operating a power tool.
8. **Keep the work area clean.** Keep the floor free of scraps and oil. Keeping workshop and storage spaces uncluttered, clean and dry can help prevent many accidents. Sparks can ignite scraps, sawdust and solvents. Water can conduct electricity. Do not stand in water, on damp floors or in the rain when working with electrical tools. Keep hands and tools dry.
9. **Food and Drink** are only permitted in designated areas.
10. **Aisles, exits and access to emergency equipment** must be kept clear at all times.
11. **Cell phones,** mp3 players and other personal electronic devices must not be used with working at any machine. Loud music is prohibited
12. **Use the correct tools for the job.** Do not use a tool or attachment for something it was not designed to do. Select the correct bit, cutter or grinding wheel for the material with which you are working. This saves time and improves the quality of work and reduces the risk of mishap. If necessary, consult the instructions or shop manual, or call a dealer or an expert on tool use.
13. **Metal work.** When working with metal, secure the metal materials with clamps or in a machinist's vise to keep it from moving.

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14. **Work only at operating speed.** Do not use a power tool before it has reached operating speed or while it is coming to a stop. Never force a tool by applying too much pressure. Let each tool work at its own speed without forcing it. Once a power tool has been turned off, allow it to coast to a stop. Never force an object into moving parts to stop a machine.
15. **Keep tools clean and in good repair.** Always clean up power tools before putting them away. Avoid using tools that are or appear to be in disrepair. Use power tools only for their intended functions.
16. **Repairing and Cleaning Power Tools.** Always turn off and unplug a power tool before (1) adjusting, oiling, cleaning or repairing it; (2) attaching an accessory; or (3) changing bits, blades or grinding wheels. Unplug or lockout tools when not in use. Unplug tools by pulling directly on the plug. Jerking on the cord can cause damage to the tool. Do not leave tools, hardware and other materials out when not in use. Before making adjustments or changing bits or cutters, disconnect the power cord to avoid accidentally touching the switch and causing possible injury when the tool starts.
17. **Compressed Air Used for Cleaning.** OSHA regulates the use of compressed air for cleaning in 29 CFR 1910.242(b) as follows:
 - ⇒ Employees shall not use compressed air for cleaning themselves or their clothing.
 - ⇒ The operator shall not direct compressed air at nearby employees.
 - ⇒ Compressed air used for cleaning work areas, such as work benches, table saws, and drill presses, shall not exceed 30 psi at the outlet, statically or dynamically, and shall be permitted only with effective chip guarding or personal protective equipment (as described in section 1910.133) to protect the operator and other employees from flying debris.
18. **Keep guards in place.** Safety guards cannot protect you if they are not in place and in proper working order.
19. **Do not leave a machine running unattended.** Make sure all moving parts have come to a complete stop before you leave the work area or before you make minor adjustments.
20. **Know the machine.** Before using any tool, read the operator's manual, or comparable literature as available. Learn the applications, limitations, and potential of each power tool before you begin to use it. Never use a tool unless trained to do so. Inspect it before each use and replace or repair if parts are worn or damaged. Repair tools only if you are trained to do so. Inspect screws, nuts, bolts and movable parts to make sure they are tightened. Make sure the cord will not become caught or tangled. The cord should be flexible, but not easy to knot. Clean the cord regularly and inspect the grounding connections. Use a ground fault circuit interrupter when working with power tools.
21. **Know the switch location(s).** Remember where the switch is located so you can turn off the machine quickly.
22. **Use safe blades.** Never use cracked or kinked saw blades. Keep saw blades sharp and properly set.
23. **Ventilation.** Avoid operating power tools in locations where sparks could ignite flammable vapors. Keep the shop well ventilated and flammable materials properly stored. Avoid using stains, oil-based paints or other odorous materials in the shop, as they will become entrained into the Maxey air intakes. Move such work outside away from air intakes.
24. **Rags.** Used rags, especially oily and greasy ones, should be kept in a covered metal container. Rags should be a safe distance from the welder and other sources of ignition.

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25. **Hazardous materials.** Take extra care when working with hazardous materials. Handle fiberglass with care. Its particles can irritate the skin, eyes and respiratory system. When soldering, remember that lead solder is toxic. The work area should be ventilated or you should wear the appropriate respirator if you have been properly trained to do so.
26. **Fires.** Shop fires can be any, or all, of three fire classes: Class A, ordinary combustibles; Class B, combustible liquids; and Class C, fires in live electrical equipment. To eliminate the need for extinguishers for all three classes, install at least one 20-pound ABC Class extinguisher in a convenient location, and possibly more, depending on the size of the shop.
27. **Storage.** Develop a system of racks, bins and tool panels to make it easy to find the right tool or materials quickly. Don't store tools, supplies or spare parts in the aisle or on the floor where they become tripping hazards. Keep other flammable materials away from heaters and welding areas to prevent fire. Grease, oil, paint and solvents should be stored in a closed metal container, preferably in metal cabinets. Gasoline or other fuels should never be stored inside the shop. Supplies and equipment should be stored in an area designed specifically for them.
28. **Personal Tools.** Personal power tools may not be brought from home for use in the NNSC machine shop. If having a personally owned power tool at work is required for a work-related project, then it should be used and stored in your lab.
29. **Housekeeping.** Each user is expected to clean up after him/herself. Good housekeeping helps ensure long tool life and a safer work area for everyone.

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Safety for Specific Power Tools

Drills: Do not use hand drills in muddy or wet locations if possible. If not, stand on something dry and avoid contact with a grounded object. Use double-insulated or properly grounded drills. Use only good quality bits. Select the proper size and type of bit for the job. Make sure it is sharp and not damaged. Do not over-force the drill into hard material as the bit might break. If the speed can be varied, operate the drill at the correct speed, and do not lock the switch of a hand-held drill in the on position.

Table Saws: Adjust the table saw blade to project about 1/8 inch above the wood. Make certain the workpiece is out of contact with the blade when starting or stopping the saw. Keep the body out of the way. Use a push stick when ripping narrow strips. Lower the saw blade below the tabletop when work is finished.

Radial Arm Saws: When crosscutting wood, lay the stock solidly on the table and against the back guide. The saw blade should rotate downward as viewed by the operator. Pull the saw with one hand while the stock is held with the other hand. Never reach across the line of cut. When making miter cuts, secure the locking devices to prevent the saw from changing angles or digging in. Return the saw to the rear position after completing a cut.

Hand-Held Circular Saws: Do not work in wet areas unless standing on a dry surface and make certain the saw is properly grounded. Do not clamp or wedge the guard in the open position. Keep your finger off the trigger when carrying the saw. Do not cut the power cord. Wait until the blade stops before laying down the saw. When finished, unplug the saw and put it out of the reach of children.

Saber Saws: Select the proper blade for the job. Make sure it is sharp, undamaged and securely tightened in place. Do not turn on the saw when the blade is in contact with the workpiece. Hold the saw firmly with one hand and steady the work with the other. Keep your hand and other objects clear of the blade.

Band Saws: Keep the saw blade set evenly and with the correct tension. Push the stock through the blade with your hands on both sides of the line of cut or, **preferably**, use a push bar designed for this purpose. Do not push with excessive force as this leads to slipping or to blade failure. If excessive force is required to cut, either the blade is dull and needs to be replaced, or the material is too hard for the saw. Excessive guard clearance can lead to serious accidents with the fingers losing! **ALWAYS LOWER THE GUARD** so that it just clears the work and return it to its lowest position when you have completed your cut.

Grinders: Never operate grinders without protecting your eyes with safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield. If the material being worked on will produce a lot of dust or other particles, you should wear a filtering face piece (dust mask) respirator. (**NOTE:** you must receive information from EH&S before using a dust mask for any reason.) Make sure the grinder has guard housing. Place the tool rest 1/8 from the wheel on bench-mounted units. Before starting a portable grinder, look to see where the sparks might fall. Clean the work area if necessary. When starting a grinder, stand to one side of the wheel and turn on the switch. Allow the wheel to reach full speed before stepping into the grinding position. Grind on the face of the wheel unless otherwise designed. Use a vise-grip pliers or clamp to hold small pieces. Move the workpiece slowly across the wheel face. Allow the wheel to stop naturally when turning it off. Periodically check for soundness of grinding wheels. If wheels are badly worn, cracked or out-of-round, lock the grinder out and contact Facilities for maintenance. Abrasive wheels should be stored hanging from a hook or in a vertical position to lessen the change of cracking that can occur from stacking horizontally.

Portable Grinders. Portable grinders and brushes are difficult to handle because of their size and weight. Extra care is needed to avoid injury and to protect the grinding wheel and brushes from damage. When using a portable grinder, hold it firmly with both hands. When finished, make sure that the grinder has completely stopped turning before you lay it down.

Note: Different abrasive wheels are manufactured for different metals/uses. Never grind soft metals on a wheel designed for hard metal grinding as the soft metal fines/dusts can become incorporated within the wheel resin, causing overheating and subsequent wheel disintegration. Be sure the abrasive wheel you are using is correct for the job. (Refer to the posted chart on how to read abrasive wheel markings.)