

Circular saws, reciprocating saws and band saws all have one thing in common, a sharp blade!! The following are a few ideas that will help you prevent a serious injury.

All saws, whether they are portable or stationary, need to have blades replaced regularly. Make sure the power source is disconnected before changing the blades. This is especially true for table saws that have a 240 volt power supply. The push button station triggers a relay, which in turn starts the motor. Relays have been known to go bad. Disconnect the main power source and lock it out every time you perform any maintenance on a saw, especially changing the blade.

Always use a sharp blade! Sharp blades cut better and they require less force, which avoids putting body parts in harm's way.

Avoid cutting wet wood whenever possible. Wet wood has a tendency to warp as you cut it. Pinching the blade can cause a kick back. If you have to rip wet wood with a skill saw, place a wedge in the kerf to prevent a binding situation. Use spreaders and kick back dogs when performing ripping operations with table saws, especially if the wood is damp.

Keep the guards in place!! Skill saws equipped with a proper guard during a kick back will still travel approximately a foot backwards before the guard is closed. Never place your hands or body parts behind a skill saw in use!! Not all guards for table saws are created equal. The types that are suspended over the table are much easier to work and least likely to interfere with operations.

Keep table saw tops clean and waxed. This helps to run your work through smoothly. Never use a miter gauge at the same time you are using a rip fence. The margin for error is too slim and any binding will cause a kick back.

When making a very narrow cut with a table saw, put the fence on the other side of the blade. This will avoid a binding situation and give you more room to work. If you must make multiple narrow cuts, make a jig that you can push through the saw blade and use feather edges to hold work.

Wedging guards on skill saws is a real bad idea. Using sharp blades, ensuring the guard is working properly, adjusting the depth of cut, and securing the work are much safer methods of operation.

Proper PPE:

- Safety Glasses
- Hearing Protection
- Appropriately fitted work clothing
- Steel Toe Work Boots
- GFCI Use
- Gloves (When handling materials)

Identifiable Hazards:

- Absent or altered Safety Guards
- Damaged Electrical Cords
- Excessive wear
- Incompatible sawing blades
- Rough operation
- Signs of water damage
- Dull or Worn Blades
- Jobsite conditions
- Improper or loose fitted clothing
- Jeweler

NOTE: Defective tools and their components shall be reported, tagged and removed from the jobsite immediately.