

GENERAL SAFETY IDEAS AND RULES

From the Woodchuck Safety Video

Ten Basic Rules:

1. Take care of yourself
2. Never use gloves when operating equipment
3. Keep the shop clean
4. Always use machine guards
5. Don't over-reach
6. Know limitations of each machine
7. Be aware of pinch points
8. Be aware of kickback
9. Leave small cut off pieces until machine stops
10. Use safety devices (feather boards, push sticks, etc.)

Be sure you remember and use the 3" and 12" rule

POWER MITER SAW

Make sure guard is working properly
Never cross your arms
Always adhere to the 3" rule
Start motor in the "up" position
Keep blade in pocket until it stops
For angle cuts, pull blade away from your body
Never put your hand inside the guard
Be aware of your body position (the saw is ambidextrous)

JOINTER

Always observe the 3" rule
Never operate machine without guards
Never pass your hands over the blades
Never join stock that is too small (less than 8" long and $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick)
Keep cuts to less than $\frac{1}{16}$ " deep
Don't back work over blades
Keep your cut towards the outfeed table
Left hand holds, right hand pushes
Never use your thumb as a push stick
Walk through with the board

BAND SAW

Check blade tension and tracking
Follow the 3" rule
Don't use thumbs as push sticks
Do not cut short stock that is not flat
Never back out of a curved cut
Never clear small pieces while blade is moving

PLANER

Be aware of pinch points
Never run work that is less than 12" long or 3/8" thick
Stand to side of your work
Keep guards in place
Use dust collector
Watch for defects in boards
Don't put hands inside machine
Never wear gloves
Do not look into planer when it's running

ROUTER TABLE

Always feed from right to left
Use hold-down devices and push sticks
Don't forget 3" rule
Never pass hands or fingers over the cutting bit
Keep blades clean and sharp
Unplug machine when changing cutters
Use moderation – make several light passes

SANDERS

Disk Sander

Follow the 3" rule
Work on one half of disk
Be aware of pinch points

Oscillating Drum Sander

Be aware of pinch points
Use "filler" doughnuts to match drum

Horizontal (Belt) Sander

Be aware of pinch points
Maintain safe distance for fingers
Be mindful of kickback
Be aware of feed direction
Use dust collection

TABLE SAW

Stand facing the fence

Use safety devices – splitter, anti-kickback and shield and make sure of proper alignment

Make adjustments when machine is OFF

Use push sticks

Never use miter gage with the fence

Use zero tolerance blade guard inserts

Have blade no more than 1/4" above wood thickness

Don't remove small cutoffs until blade stops

Never saw "freehand"

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