

# Thickness Planer Safety Rules

**Directions:** Before operating the Thickness Planer you are required to know each of the following rules pertaining to operating and using the Thickness Planer safely. You must pass the Thickness Planer safety quiz before using the Thickness Planer. Additionally, you must have had a demonstration on it's proper use. Finally, you must demonstrate to the instructor that you know how to operate it safely BEFORE using it on your own.

## Before Turning the Thickness Planer On:

1. Get permission from the instructor to use the Jointer.
2. Always wear safety glasses/safety goggles while using the Thickness Planer and working in the shop.
3. Make sure the outfeed guard is in place, covering the outfeed opening. NEVER put your hands/fingers in the outfeed opening.
4. Do not plane warped or twisted boards until one side (face) has been straightened and will lie flat on a level surface. Straightening can be done using a hand plane or jointer.
5. Inspect stock for loose knots on the board to be planed. If any of those are present, do NOT plane that board until the knot is removed. Additionally, while we are using new wood, if any metal such as staples, nails or screws are found on a surface, do NOT plane that surface.
6. Measure the thickness of the stock you're wanting to plane at it's thickest point. Determine if the stock you're wanting to plane is thicker than 3/8" and at least 14" long. If not, then do NOT plane it. Also measure the width of the stock. You won't be able to plane it if it is too wide.
7. Set the infeed table at a height that is up to 1/16" less than the thickness you measured in #5 above. Adjust the elevating handwheel as needed. (One clockwise turn raises the table 1/16") (Turning the wheel to the Right Raises the table and Left Lowers the table.)
8. Determine the grain direction of the surface to be planed. You'll be feeding the stock into the planer with the grain.

## Operating the Thickness Planer:

9. Turn the dust collector on. Ensure that the restriction plate is "out".
10. NEVER allow your hands/fingers to enter the infeed opening.
11. NEVER turn the Thickness Planer on with stock inside the infeed opening.
12. Turn the Thickness Planer on and wait until it has reached full speed before starting to plane your stock.
13. NEVER bend down to look into a planer while it is running.
14. Only plane one piece of stock at a time.
15. Stand to the side of the stock and feed it, with the grain, into the infeed opening. Let go of the stock when the roller takes hold of it. **NEVER NEVER NEVER NEVER NEVER EVER** put your finger in a knot hole while operating the Thickness Planer.

## Operating the Thickness Planer: (Continued)

16. If stock should start at an angle, you may be able to give it a quick shove to straighten it out.
17. Stock will sometimes “hang” (or stop moving forward). Causes and solutions are:
  - a. The pressure bar is causing too much pressure on the wood. To fix, simply raise the pressure bar lever slightly and your stock should continue on it’s path. When it starts moving again, gently put the pressure bar lever back down.
  - b. The feed control may have slipped. Simply push it all the way to the right.
  - c. The table is too high (not adjusted to the proper height). This should NOT happen since you’re supposed to measure the stock and then make table adjustment according to your needs.
18. If stock is real long, get help holding it while you feed it into the infeed opening. Ensure your helper is standing to the side of the stock and NOT behind it.
19. Keep hands/fingers at least 2 inches back from the infeed table at all times.
20. Concentrate, Concentrate, Concentrate. Do not let yourself become distracted at any time while operating the Thickness Planer. Keep your full attention on the stock, the controls, and where your hands/fingers are while planing. Remember to not let your finger(s) get into any knot hole, opening or depression that would trap your finger(s) between the stock and the table.
21. After half of the stock has entered the planer, walk around back and hold the end up as the rest of the stock comes out of the machine. Do not pull the stock out; simply allow the machine to push it toward you. Adjust the pressure bar lever if needed.
22. Do NOT plane to a thickness less than 3/8”.
23. Listen to the sound the planer makes as it’s operating. If something doesn’t sound right, turn the Thickness Planer off and notify the instructor.
24. Always turn the Thickness Planer off and wait until it stops moving before making any adjustments that you are permitted to make.

### After Planing Your Stock:

25. When finished working with the Thickness Planer, turn the machine off and remain in the work zone until it stops moving.
26. Blow excessive chips off of the infeed table so that the next users’ stock will be able to make contact directly with the table instead of being raised up slightly by the chips left after you’re finished planing.
27. Return the table height to 3/4”.

### Final Thought:

28. If you’re unsure about the application of any of these rules to your specific situation, ask the instructor.