

# Table Saw Safety Rules

**Directions:** Before operating the Table Saw you are required to know each of the following rules pertaining to operating and using the Table Saw safely. You must pass the Table Saw safety quiz before using the Table Saw. Additionally, you must have had a demonstration on its 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 Table Saw On:

1. Get permission from the instructor to use the Table Saw.
2. Always wear safety glasses/safety goggles while using the Table Saw and working in the shop.
3. Make sure there are no scrap pieces or chips on the floor in front of the Table Saw.
4. Make sure there are no scrap pieces or chips lodged between the fence and the blade.
5. Make sure there are no scrap pieces or chips lodged between the blade guards and the table or blade.
6. Make any adjustments to the height or angle of the blade that may necessary BEFORE turning the Table Saw on. Do NOT raise or lower the blade while the saw is on. The teeth of the saw blade are to be 1/8" above the stock you are wanting to cut.
7. When ripping stock, use the fence. When crosscutting stock, use the miter gauge or crosscutting sled. NEVER use the fence and miter gauge at the same time. (One exception to this would be when making repetitive type crosscuts. A set-off block can be attached to the fence, but stock must be clear of this set-off block before it touches the blade, otherwise kick-back could result.)
8. When preparing for ripping stock, measure the distance from the fence to a tooth that is closest to the fence. Measure carefully. Press the lower fence lock down. Then press the upper fence lock down. Recheck your measurement. Often, pressing the upper fence lock down will move the fence slightly. Readjust the distance as needed and relock both lock downs, down. Recheck your measurement again.
9. Check to see that the guards are in place, working and not hung up. Also check to make sure that the anti-kick-back wheels are in place, working, and not touching the blade.
10. Any special set-up is to be checked by the instructor BEFORE cutting. These would include angled cuts, beveled cuts, and dado cuts.
11. Inspect your stock. It must have at least one true edge. Also, it MUST lay flat on the table. Stock that is warped, cupped, or twisted will most likely be kicked back. So, either true such stock up or don't cut it.
12. For semi-long stock use the roller stand. Get a helper for real wide or long stock. The helper is only to keep the stock from falling on the floor. The helper is NOT to pull or guide the stock.

## Operating the Table Saw:

13. Turn the dust collector on. Ensure that the restriction plate is "out".
14. Check to make sure that no one is standing behind the saw in the kick-back zone. If there is someone there, ask them to move and then wait until they do move before turning the saw on.
15. NEVER saw freehand using a Table Saw. Always use the fence, miter gauge, or sled.
16. NEVER turn the Table Saw on while the saw blade is touching your stock.

## Operating the Table Saw: (Continued)

17. NEVER stand directly behind the area between the fence and the blade (Kick-back Zone). Normally, for wider (more than 5" cuts) stand to the right side of the blade. Turn the Table Saw on and wait until it has reached full speed before starting to cut your stock. When ripping stock less than 5" stand to the left of the blade and use push stick(s).
18. Cut only one piece of stock at a time.
19. Feed the stock into the blade only as fast as it will go with ease. Maintain a firm grip on the stock to maintain control as the cut is being made.
20. Concentrate, Concentrate, Concentrate. Do not let yourself become distracted at any time while operating the Table Saw. Keep your full attention on the kick-back zone, blade, stock, fence, and where your hands are while cutting.
21. NEVER reach in anywhere around the blade to remove scrap pieces or chips while the blade is in motion. Maintain the 4" margin of safety at all times.
22. Always turn the Table Saw off and wait until it stops moving before making any adjustments that you are permitted to make.
23. NEVER EVER leave the saw while it is running.

## After Cutting Your Stock:

24. When finished working with the Table Saw, turn the machine off. Remain in the work zone until it stops moving.
25. AFTER the blade stops moving, remove scraps/chips from the table, around the blade, and off the floor so that the next user is ready to begin. Lower the blade below the table surface.
26. Assuming no one else needs the dust collector on, turn it off.

## Final Thoughts:

27. If you're unsure about the application of any of these rules to your specific situation, ask the instructor.
28. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should your arms be crossed while using the Table Saw.
29. While there are a variety of operations that the Table Saw is capable of performing, we will mostly use it for ripping and crosscutting stock.
30. Anticipate and Prevent Kick-back. Kick-back is the result of the stock being pinched between the blade and the fence. Causes include:
  - (1) Improperly fed stock (fence not parallel to the blade)
  - (2) Stock binding between the blade and the set-off block.
  - (3) Cutting wood with knots
  - (4) Cutting painted wood
  - (5) Dull blade

**DO NOT STAND IN THE KICK-BACK ZONE!!!**