



Table Saw Safety Rules

Table saws are designed to rip, cross cut, bevel, and cut angles with precision. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the Table Saw. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

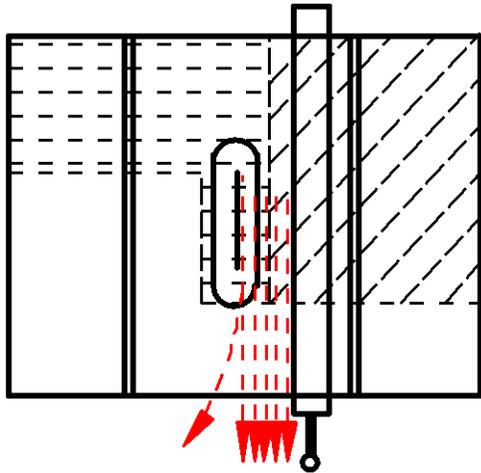
1. Follow all procedures in **CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION Shop Rules and Guidelines**.
2. Before operating the Table Saw, ensure that you've read and are familiar with, Shop Safety Best Practices.
3. Always wear safety glasses with side shields or goggles upon entering shop situations and while operating the Table Saw.
4. Hearing protection should be worn.
5. If you don't know how to use the Table Saw properly for the cuts you'd like to make, get instruction on how to use it correctly for what you want to do.
6. Be sure that the Table Saw has an appropriate table insert installed. Never operate a table saw with the table insert removed. Use zero clearance table inserts when appropriate.
7. Be sure that the blade guard and splitter are in place and adjusted properly unless it's **not possible** to make the cut safely with them installed.
8. If using a miter gauge be sure it's adjusted to the correct angle and that the head of the miter gauge is locked securely. Be sure that the miter gauge is working properly, that the gauge slides smoothly past the table insert and that there is no interference between the gauge and the blade prior to turning the saw on.
9. If using a rip fence, ensure that it is working properly and that when it is locked in place that it doesn't move out of adjustment easily.
10. A two foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
11. The Table Saw turns the blade or any other installed accessory with substantial rotational speed and power. If used improperly, it can throw the stock being milled toward the user or a bystander with tremendous force. Ensure that you and any bystanders are clear of this "**Line of fire**". See diagram in Operational Safety Rules.
12. Best Safety Practice is to remove watches, rings, necklaces and neckties before operating the Table Saw.
13. Best Safety Practice is to secure long hair to reduce the chance that it could become tangled in the spinning blade.
14. Best Safety Practice is to avoid wearing loose clothing if it could get close to the spinning blade.
15. Best Safety Practice is to avoid wearing any type of glove while operating the Table Saw. While you should always keep your hands (and other body parts) clear of the Table Saw blade, if you were wearing a glove and it became caught in the spinning blade your hand could be pulled into the blade causing a very serious injury.
16. If you encounter any problems while performing the risk assessment, contact the shop foreman who will work with you to ensure that they are resolved properly.

Operational Safety:

1. Approach your work in the shop and on the table saw with a safe attitude!
2. Always be aware of your position at the Table Saw. Key danger areas are shown in the diagram that follows.
3. The area close to the blade and the area where stock that is kicked back tends to fly are the most obvious dangers. But other areas are dangerous too. If stock kicks back, you don't want to be pulled into the blade and you don't want to contact the blade if you're startled or

distracted. Awareness of position helps keep you safe.

- In the diagram, the area with diagonal lines may be used with care when **ripping stock** using a push stick but Best Safety Practice says that you'd never place any part of your body or clothing closer than 3" from the blade. This assumes the fence is to the right of the blade.
- When following Best Safety Practices, the area with horizontal lines is "off limits" to all clothing and body parts while the saw is not turned off and at a complete stop.



- The red arrows show the "line of fire" where kickback is likely to hurl stock. While most of the time material that is kicked back will travel nearly straight toward the front of the saw, as shown by the red arrows in the diagram above, pieces can be lifted and thrown. Once they become airborne, there is no way to predict where they will go. A face shield is a good idea when using this tool as it offers more protection than safety glasses or goggles alone.
- Give the work your undivided attention.
- Keep hands (and all other body parts) 3" from the blade if the blade is turning.
- Do not over reach behind or over the blade unless the blade has stopped completely.
- Never feed stock free hand through the Table Saw. Use a miter gauge, crosscut sled, fence or another appropriate jig to control the stock while it's in contact with the turning saw blade.
- Always disconnect the power before changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation. As a general rule, it's worth remembering that when the saw is unplugged,

you will never accidentally turn it on. If you're going to touch the saw blade, it only makes sense to unplug the saw first.

- Make sure that the blade will turn freely before you plug the saw in and turn on the power. This is especially important after you make changes or adjustments.
- Always loosen the hand wheel lock nuts before adjusting the blade height or angle. Ensure that the lock nuts for the hand wheels are tightened once the adjustment is complete. Be especially sure that the locking nut on the blade-tilting hand wheel is secure for angle cuts so the blade does not move.
- Adjust the blade height so that only 1/8" to 1/4" projects above the stock.
- Use a **blade guard** for all cross cut and rip operations, unless using a crosscut sled with a built in blade guard. Make any necessary adjustments prior to turning on the Table Saw.
- When cutting across the grain of the stock use a miter gauge or a crosscut sled.
- When cutting with the crosscut sled and using an outfeed table, make sure the outfeed table guide slots are in alignment with the sled's guide rails, and that the saw table and outfeed table are at the same level.
- Never use the miter gauge and fence together while cross cutting without a spacer block. Use a spacer block of known thickness clamped to the rip fence when you want to crosscut pieces to known lengths. The material you're cutting must clear the spacer block before contacting the blade. When in doubt about this consult the shop foreman.
- When ripping, use the kerf splitter.
- When ripping, keep bystanders clear of the area on the infeed side in case of kickback.
- When ripping long stock, make sure that you have help, use the outfeed table, or use a stand to support the work.
- Use a push stick to rip stock that is 3" or less in width.
- Stand comfortably, with your feet far enough apart for good balance.
- Position your body to the left of the blade, so that it is NOT in "line of fire" if kickback occurs (see diagram above).
- Make sure that the blade has stopped turning completely before you leave the area, remove scrap pieces from the table or adjust the machine for another operation.