

Shop Supervisor: _____

Date Approved: _____

Table Saw

A **table saw** is probably the most widely-used woodworking machine in the woodshop. It isn't the only tool that can rip wood to precise dimensions, slice and dice wood paneling, or cut bevels, grooves, and crosscut compound angles, but it's the best choice for all those jobs. The stationary table saw is an extremely powerful and precise tool, and accuracy is key for a quality finished product.



Personal Protective Equipment

Tie Back Hair & Secure Loose Items	Closed Toe Shoes	Eye/Face Protection	Hearing Protection	Protective Clothing	No Gloves Advised
					
Tie back long hair and secure loose clothing that could get caught in rotating parts. Remove rings and other jewelry.	Appropriate enclosed footwear should be worn.	Wear ANSI Z87.1-compliant safety goggles to protect eyes. Face shields may be necessary to protect from dust, shards, and debris.	Hearing protection should be worn when noise levels are excessive.	Close-fitting or protective clothing, such as an apron, is encouraged.	Gloves can get caught in rotating parts. Use push sticks or boards and follow the "4 inch" rule to keep hands away from harm.

Potential Hazards

Be aware of the following potential hazards when working with table saws:

- **Mechanical:** points of operation, pinch points, shear points, power transmission points
- **Operational:** heat, dust/chips/shards, noise, unstable loads/stocks
- **Chemical:** coolants, cleaning solvents, lubricants
- **Electrical/Energy Sources:** exposed wiring, malfunctioning equipment, unexpected start up/shut down

Before Use

- Know the location of start and stop switches or buttons, and keep the table saw area free of tools and other materials.
- Report any unsafe conditions observed on the table saw or stock being worked on to the shop supervisor.
- Be familiar with how to operate the local exhaust ventilation (LEV) system for the saw, if equipped, and turn it on before beginning work. Ensure that the LEV is well maintained to work effectively.
- Check the [Safety Data Sheet](#) for potential health hazards of specific materials (e.g., western red cedar) and chemicals (e.g., lubricants, solvents). **Additionally, ensure that the stock you are cutting is free of nails, screws, or other metallic objects.**
- Ensure that machine guards are in place and recommended personal protective equipment is worn.
 - Ensure the guard doors are closed and the blade is properly adjusted prior to turning on the machine.
 - Adjust the upper guard assembly to within ¼ inch of the stock prior to starting the machine.
 - If adjustments or maintenance (such as adding oil) are needed, unplug the power (or lockout/tagout if hard-wired) before adjusting.
- Set the saw at the appropriate speed for the type of stock being machined.
- Check to ensure the saw blade is sharpened, and that the type of blade is correct for the type of stock and speed being used.
- Determine whether you will need additional equipment or supports, such as outfeed tables, stands, or extra support rollers.
- Be cautious when a cutting operation requires locating fingers close to the blade. It is a best practice to keep hands at least 4 inches away from the blade.

During Use

- **Concentrate on the task at hand; avoid distractions.** Most injuries occur when the operator is not paying full attention to what they are doing.
- Set fence and/or miter gauge to the desired setting. Normally when setting up the saw, the desired piece is between fence/stop and the blade. This provides a more accurate cut reduces the risk of kickback (when the stock can be violently thrown back toward the operator).
- Raise the saw blade so that it will project through the top of the piece by approximately ⅛ (one-eighth) inch.
- Allow the saw to reach full set speed prior to cutting stock.
- Do not force stock into the saw blade. Let the speed of the blade cut stock appropriately.
- Do not saw pieces freehand on the table saw.
- For pieces longer than 36 inches in any direction, use an extra support roller or have an assistant off-bear for you. The “off-bearer” is only there to support the stock and should not pull stock through the blade.
- Keep hands at a safe distance on either side of the stock being machined.
- Use a push stick or board to push small or irregularly sized pieces of stock or for narrow cuts. Examples: when the fence is set to less than about 6 inches from the blade, when the piece is less than 12 inches long or when the last 12 inches is being cut. Use the push stick to remove the cut piece from between the fence and the blade.

- Stand to either side of the saw blade; never stand directly behind the blade to avoid injury from potential kickback.
- While cutting, keep fingers and hands from passing through the plane in which the saw blade exists. When moving hands, pick them up and bring them into you first; never slide or swing arms around the saw blade.
- Guide stock through the saw in a steady manner with light to medium pressure, keeping it tight against the fence or miter gauge. Do not force stock.
- Push stock completely past the back side of the blade. Never back stock off of the blade; kickback will occur.
- If the saw blade binds on a piece of stock, turn the saw off and wait until it comes to a complete stop before attempting to remove the blade from the stock.
- Do not allow large quantities of chips to accumulate around the work piece or band saw table. Use a brush or rag to remove excess chips after the blade has come to a complete stop.
- Stand erect in front of the saw with both legs straight and slightly apart. Avoid stooping or leaning into the machine.

After Use

- Shut off the power and/or unplug the machine and ensure that it is ready for the next person to use. Wait for the saw blade to completely stop on its own- do not attempt to use your hands to stop it from moving. Lower the blade completely below the table.
- Turn off the LEV, if equipped, and prepare it for the next use.
- Sweep or use a shop vacuum to collect any debris that resulted from cutting on the floor or other surfaces. Avoid cleaning with compressed air to prevent injury.
- Store stock materials in a neat and secured manner; do not accumulate excess combustibles. Keep aisles and exits clear.
- Wash hands and exposed skin thoroughly after completing work and before leaving the shop area.

Emergency Equipment and Procedures

- Report all incidents to the shop supervisor, including injuries, equipment damage, and near misses.
- Know the location of the nearest emergency equipment and items, such as the emergency stop/shut-off for the specific machine, eye wash, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and emergency exits.

[illegible]