

All power tools can be dangerous if both general and tool specific safety instructions are not followed carefully. General safety instructions apply to all power tools, both corded and cordless.

Start with a Safe Work Area



Keep your work area clean and well lit. Cluttered benches and dark areas invite accidents.



Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, near flammable liquids, gases, or dust. Power tools create sparks, which may ignite the dust or fumes.

- Keep bystanders, children, and visitors away when using a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.



Electricity can be Dangerous

Grounded tools (three pronged cords) must be plugged into a properly grounded installed outlet. Never remove or cut off the grounding prong or modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs.



Double Insulated tools have a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other.) This plug will fit into an outlet only one way. Do not change the plug in any way.



Do not use AC only rated tools with a DC power supply.



Store battery packs away from other metal objects like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws, or other small metal objects. These things can make a connection from one terminal to the other, shorting the battery terminals together and causing burns or fire.



- When using a power tool, don't touch grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators. There is a higher risk of electric shock if your body is grounded.

GFCI

In damp locations, only plug your tool into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). If the work area does not have a permanent GFCI on the outlet, use a plug-in GFCI. Wear rubber gloves and footwear.



Don't use or leave power tools in the rain or wet conditions.



Do not abuse the cord, carry the tool by its cord, or pull the cord to unplug it. Keep the cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Replace damaged cords immediately.



Always hold the tool by the insulated gripping surfaces. Contact with hidden wiring or its own cord will make exposed metal parts of the tool "live" and shock the operator.

Rules about Extension Cords

- When using a power tool outside, use an extension cord marked for outdoor use with "W-A" or "W". These cords are made for outdoor use.
- Extension cords with 3-prong grounding plugs must be plugged into 3-prong outlets when using grounded tools.
- Replace damaged or worn cords immediately.

Amps

The wire gauge and length of the extension cord must be able to handle the amps of the tool. Find the Amps (A) on the tool's nameplate and use the chart to determine the necessary wire gauge for your extension cord length.

Nameplate Amps	Extension Cord Gauge Cord Length in Feet			
	25'	50'	100'	150'
0-6	18	16	16	14
6-10	18	16	14	12
10-12	16	16	14	12
12-16	14	12	Not Recommended	

Good Personal Safety is a Must

Following good safety practices when using all power tools is a must. Make a habit of including safety in all of your activities.



Always read and understand the tool's operator's manual, tool markings and the instructions packaged with the accessory before starting any work.

- Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when using a power tool.



Do not use tools when you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication.

- Dress right. Do not wear gloves, loose clothes or jewelry. Contain long hair. Loose clothes, gloves, jewelry, or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- Keep handles dry, clean and free from oil and grease.
- Be sure the power tool's switch is OFF before plugging it in or inserting a battery pack. Do not carry tools with your finger on the switch.



Remove adjusting keys and wrenches before turning the tool ON.

- Always keep a firm footing when using power tools. Be sure you have balance and control before you start the job.



Use safety equipment. Always wear eye protection. A dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection must be used when needed. The reference to “safety goggles” or “safety glasses” in product specific sections provides potential options - always refer to the tool’s operator’s manual for the specific eye protection recommended, which should be marked as complying with current national standards.

- Unplug tool/remove battery before changing accessories.



Keep hands away from rotating or moving parts.

Do the Job Safely

- Use the power tool accessories only for the jobs for which they were designed.



Secure and support the workpiece. Use clamps and a stable work surface. Do not hold the work by hand or against your body.

- Keep guards in place and working properly.
- Do not force the tool. Use the right tool for your job. It will do the job better and safer.
- Use only accessories recommended by the tool manufacturer. Accessories that may be suitable for one tool may become hazardous when used on another tool.



Do not touch the drill bit, blade, cutter or the workpiece immediately after operation; they may be very hot and may burn you.

- If a method of dust collection is available with the power tool, it should be used to reduce the risk of dust-related hazards.

Maintenance Keeps Tools Working Safely and Effectively

- Do not use a tool if the switch does not turn it on and off. It must be repaired.



Look at the tool before using it. Are moving parts misaligned or binding? Is anything broken? Damaged tools must be fixed before using them. Develop a maintenance schedule for your tool.

- Maintain accessories carefully. Keep blades and bits sharp and clean.
- Take your tool to be serviced by qualified repair people. Service or maintenance performed by unqualified personnel could result in a risk of injury. For example: internal wires may be misplaced or pinched, safety guard return springs may be improperly mounted.
- When servicing a tool, use only identical replacement parts. Follow instructions regarding maintenance in the tool’s operator’s manual. Use of unauthorized parts or failure to follow the maintenance instructions may create a risk of electric shock or injury.
- Clean and lubricate a tool only as directed in its operator’s manuals. Certain cleaning agents such as gasoline, carbon tetrachloride, ammonia, etc. may damage plastic parts.
- Maintain labels and nameplates. These carry important information. If unreadable or missing, contact the manufacturer for a replacement.

When Done, Store the Tools out of Harm’s Way



To avoid accidental starting, unplug the cord, remove batteries or lock off the switch when the tool is not being used, when changing accessories, and when adjusting or cleaning tools.

- Keep tools out of the reach of children and people unfamiliar with the tools.

Jig Saws (Saber Saws)

Jig saws, also known as saber saws, are light weight and generally easy to handle. For this reason, carelessness can easily enter into tool operation.

Good Personal Safety is a Must

Following good safety practices when using jig saws is a must. Make a habit of including safety in all your activities.



Always read and understand the tool's operator's manual, tool markings and the instructions packaged with the accessory before starting any work.



Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields complying with current national standards, and a full face shield when needed.



Use the appropriate mask or respirator in dusty work conditions.

Wear proper hearing protection, as needed.

- Dress right. Do not wear gloves, loose clothes or jewelry. Contain long hair. Loose clothes, gloves, jewelry, or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- Crowded, cluttered work areas that can cause tripping or loss of balance are particularly dangerous.
- Never alter a guard or use the tool with a guard missing. Be sure all guards are in place and working properly before each use. Do not defeat guards.

Choose the Right Tool and Blade

Choosing the correct tool and the proper accessory for your application can help to reduce the risk of serious injury. When used according to the manufacturer's instructions, the proper tool and accessory will do the job safer and faster.

- Unplug the tool before checking or installing blades or accessories.



Use sharp blades. Dull blades can produce excessive heat, make cutting difficult, result in forcing the saw, and possibly cause an accident.

- Make sure the blade is clean. Buildup on the surface of the blade could cause excessive friction.

Know your Workpiece

Take time to review your work and make sure that all necessary precautions have been taken before making a cut.



Know what is behind a workpiece before you do the job. Do not cut into existing walls or other blind areas where electrical wiring may exist. If this situation is unavoidable, disconnect all fuses or circuit breakers feeding this work site.

- Support long workpieces at the same height as the saw.



Always place the workpiece securely in a vise or clamp when making cuts. Never make freehand cuts.

- Holding the workpiece by hand is unstable and may lead to loss of control.
- Never try to remove or clamp the workpiece while the blade is moving.

Before Cutting...

Before cutting with a jig saw, make sure the tool and its accessories are in proper working order. Failure to do so may increase your risk of injury, blade pinching, binding or stalling, and loss of control. These situations may result in an injury.

- Check blades carefully before each use for proper alignment and possible defects. Never use a bent, broken or warped saw blade.
- Never attempt to cut materials larger than the rated capacity listed in the jig saw operator's manual, as this may result in personal injury.
- Never unplug the tool with the trigger locked on. Before plugging in the tool, be sure the "lock-on" switch is off. Accidental start-ups could cause injury.
- If the "lock-on" switch cannot be turned off with the trigger while the tool is running, unplug it and have it repaired by a qualified service technician.
- Be sure all guards are in place and working properly before each use. Do not defeat guards.
- Be sure all adjusting screws (knobs) and the blade clamp are tight before making a cut. Loose adjusting screws and blade clamps can cause the saw or blade to slip and loss of control may result.

- Make sure the blade has adequate blade set. Blade set provides clearance between the sides of the blade and the workpiece, thus minimizing binding. Some saw blades have hollow ground sides instead of blade set to provide clearance.

Blade Set



While Cutting ...



Concentrate on what you are doing and be aware of kickback (a sudden reaction to a pinched, bound or misaligned blade). Kickback can cause an uncontrolled tool to lift up and out of the workpiece toward the operator and is the result of tool misuse and/or incorrect operating procedures or conditions. Take these specific precautions to help prevent kickback when using a jig saw:

- NEVER overreach! For maximum control, hold the saw firmly after securing the workpiece.
- Be alert to the possibility of the blade binding and kickback occurring.
- Never remove the saw from a cut while the blade is moving. When making a partial cut, or if power is interrupted, release the trigger immediately and don't remove the saw from the work piece until the blade has come to a complete stop. A saw tooth could grab the work piece, causing loss of control.



Never reach under the saw or workpiece. The blade is exposed under the work piece and the saw guard cannot protect your body here.

- Release the trigger immediately if the blade binds or the saw stalls.



Overheating a saw blade can cause it to warp and result in kickback. Buildup of sap on the blade, insufficient blade set, dullness, and unguided cuts, can all cause an overheated blade and kickback.

- When starting the cut, firmly position the saw plate/shoe on the workpiece before turning on the tool. Always keep firm contact between the plate/shoe and the workpiece. Small or thin material may flex or vibrate with the blade, causing loss of control.
- Before starting a cut, turn the tool "ON" and allow the blade to reach full speed. The saw can chatter or vibrate if the blade speed is too slow when beginning the cut and kickback may occur.



Keep your hands away from all cutting edges and moving parts. Never place your fingers in line with the blade.

- When plunge (pocket) cutting, use a blade designed for that purpose and follow the tool manufacturer's instructions.
- Pinch Points! Keep hands from between the gear housing and saw blade clamp (plunger). The reciprocating blade clamp (blade plunger) can pinch your fingers.
- Switch the tool off after a cut is completed, and keep the saw away from your body until the blade stops. The blade may coast for a time, posing the risk of serious cuts.

When Done...



Unplug, clean and store the tool in a safe, dry place after use.

Always Remember...

- Be alert at all times, especially during repetitive operations. Don't be tempted into carelessness due to a false sense of security. Blades are extremely unforgiving.
- To reduce the risk of injury, always unplug the saw when moving from a workstation.