

JOINTERS / PLANERS

Power tools require operator respect in specific ways. They must be used carefully and kept in safe operating condition, whether they are in the hands of a professional tradesman, an amateur do-it-yourselfer, or a vocational student. *The demands of safety apply to all.* The material presented here is a compilation of carefully selected safe use precautions as they relate to specific electric power tool CAUTIONS, WARNINGS and DANGERS. The purpose is to highlight the safe use of specific tools that have a potential of causing injury if ignored. The warnings and instructions on the power tool and in its operator's manual provide the best source of safety information for the tool. Read and understand the contents and follow the advisements of operator's manuals on each specific power tool and all related accessories. This is considered essential to the safe operation of any power tool. Review PTI's *Safety is Specific* publication for general power tool safety.



Jointers/planers are used to resurface wood and like materials to provide a straight, smooth surface.

Good Personal Safety is a Must

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

- Wear proper hearing protection, as needed.
- 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.
- When using a stationary jointer/planer, always use push blocks/sticks when jointing or beveling wood or when planing.

Choose the Right Tool and Accessory

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 make the job safer and faster.

- Always keep cutter blades (knives) sharp and clean of rust and pitch to avoid excessive blade friction.
- Use only cutter blades (knives) recommended by the tool manufacturer. This is extremely important for your personal safety.
- Never operate the tool without the cutter blade (knife) cover securely in position.
- Do not attempt to sharpen blades while they are installed in the cutter head unless a proper blade sharpening attachment is provided.
- Do not use cracked or damaged blades. Check blades for cracks or damage before use. Replace cracked or damaged blades immediately.

Know your Workpiece

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

- Examine the workpiece carefully before cutting. Do not joint or plane chipboard, panel board or any stock containing nails, paint or varnish.
- Be cautious of knots in wood. Knots can be thrown out of the work piece or cause kickback.
- Properly support long lengths of material to maintain control. Use work supports or stands as needed.
- Never joint or plane wood narrower than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or thinner than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Never joint or plane wood shorter than 12 inches.
- When using a portable jointer/planer, always place the workpiece on a stable workbench and secure it firmly with a clamp or vise to avoid losing control.

Before Cutting...

Before cutting with a jointer/planer, make sure the tool and its accessories are in proper working order. Failure to do so may increase your risk of injury and may result in tool damage.

- Obtain advice from a qualified person if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of this tool.
- Do not operate the tool until it is completely assembled and installed according to the manufacturer instructions.

- Check that all guards are in place and return quickly to normal rest positions. If a guard seems slow to return or “hangs up”, have it adjusted, repaired or replaced immediately. Never use a tool without a properly operating guard.
- Set up and secure blades and worktables according to the operator’s manual.
- Make sure blades are securely locked in the cutter head and that the unused portion of the blade is covered with the guard before tool use.
- Maintain proper adjustment of infeed and outfeed tables.
- Avoid awkward operations and hand positions where a sudden slip could cause a hand to move into the blade.
- Hold the tool firmly with both hands for portable planers.
- Run the tool for a while without the blade pointing toward anybody. Check for vibration or wobbling that could indicate poor installation or a poorly balanced blade.
- Never reach your hands underneath the work piece while the blade is rotating.

While Cutting ...

- Never use freehand. Holding the work piece by hand is unstable and may lead to loss of control.
- Keep your hands, fingers and body away from the cutting area. Contact with a blade will cause serious injury.
- Don’t try to remove too much material in one pass. Never remove more than 1/8 inch per pass.
- Keep the exhaust port pointed away from yourself and bystanders.
- Don’t reach into the exhaust chute to unclog chips. Stop the tool and unplug it from the power source. After making sure that blade has stopped, clear the chute with something other than your bare hand.
- Always be sure that the tool is switched off and unplugged before making any adjustments.
- Never feed the workpiece in the direction of cutting blade rotation. It can cause the cutter blade to grab and pull the workpiece.
- Use push blocks to hold down the work piece to protect your hands and fingers. Your hands and fingers should never pass directly over the cutter head when feeding a workpiece.

When Done...

- When done, lock the switch in the “off” position to prevent unauthorized use.

NOTICE

The contents are not meant to be, nor should they be considered, an absolute or complete presentation of the safety measures and procedures that relate to using the power tools covered. Obviously every possible application cannot be foreseen. This brochure’s purpose is to highlight only some important safety and safety related information compiled from the experience of Institute members and other reliable safety oriented sources. Individual manufacturers’ tool operator’s manuals, shipped with tools and accessories, are recommended as a final source for proper procedures for specific tool usage.