



Table Saw Safety Video Lesson Plan

Presented by the
manufacturer members
of the Power Tool Institute

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TABLE SAW SAFETY VIDEO LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce the video by instructing the class that it covers a variety of cuts and safety rules for making these cuts. Subjects covered in the video are:
 - It takes just a split second for a mistake to result in an accident and possible serious injury.
 - Proper preparation.
 - Saw set-up.
 - Cross cutting.
 - Miter cuts.
 - Rip sawing.
 - Bevel rip cutting.
 - Dado cutting.
 - Groove cutting.
 - Rabbet cuts.
 - Plunge cuts.
 - Major causes of kickback.
 - Rules for avoiding kickback and accidental contact with the blade.
2. Encourage the students to note the main points in each section.
3. Show the video.
4. Have the class recount as many of the safety rules as they can.
5. Use the outline provided here to fill in any of the points they missed.
6. Show the video a second time. There is a lot of material to absorb.

It takes just a split second for a mistake to result in an accident and possible serious injury.

Proper Preparation

Completely read and understand the instruction manual and safety warning labels.

Properly Set-up Workspace

- Well lit
- Free of bystanders and pets.
- Clean and dry – free of clutter.
- Floors that are not slippery.
- UL listed extension cord of the proper gauge and in good condition.
- Extension cord away from water and not creating a tripping hazard.
- Extension cord plug is compatible with electric outlet.

Operator

- No loose-fitting clothing.
- No loose jewelry or neckties.
- Long sleeves rolled up.
- Long hair tied back.
- Non-skid closed toe shoes, safety glasses and dust mask.
- No drugs, alcohol or prescription drugs.

Saw Set-Up

- Saw fastened down so it can't slide or tip over.
- All saw parts in good working order.
- Blade guard properly installed.

- Saw table clear of any wood scraps or tools.
- Power switch in off position before powering up the saw.

Making Common Cuts

Cross Cutting – Cutting across the grain of the wood.

- Use the miter gauge to hold the work piece
- Never use the rip fence as a stop or length gauge.
- If the work piece is too small to be safely supported by the miter gauge, use a wood facing attached jig or fixture in order to keep your fingers away from the blade.

Miter Cuts – Cross cuts other than 90° using the miter gauge.

Rip Sawing – Cutting with the grain of the wood.

- Never rip cut a work piece that is twisted, warped or does not have a straight edge.
- Keep your fingers at least 6” from the blade by using push sticks.
- Rip fence is used to control the width of the cut.
- Make sure rip fence is parallel to the blade and securely locked in place.
- Always apply feed force to the portion of the work piece between the saw blade and the rip fence.
- Never push the work piece into the side of the blade.

Bevel Rip Cutting

- Always locate fence away from the blade tilt.
- Always apply feed force between blade and fence.

Dado Cutting – Cuts grooves into the work piece.

Groove Cutting – Cuts groove down the length of the work piece.

- Feather boards should be used to hold the work piece down.

Rabbet Cuts – A step like cut on the end of edge of a work piece.

Plunge Cuts – Cuts initiated inside of the work piece.

- Never attempt to plunge cut by placing the work piece down on a spinning blade.
- With the work piece in place bring the spinning saw blade up from beneath the table.
- Pay attention to the proximity of your fingers to the blade.

AFTER COMPLETING CUTS WHERE THE GUARD IS REMOVED ALWAYS REMOVE THE POWER SOURCE FROM THE SAW AND REPLACE THE GUARD. DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOU OR ANOTHER USER WILL DO THIS LATER.

Major Causes of Kickback

- Improper alignment of the fence to blade.
- Improper support of the work piece.
- A twisted or warped work piece.
- A dull or damaged blade.
- Overly aggressive work piece feeding.

Simple Rules for Avoiding Kick Back and Accidental Contact with the Blade

- Do not try to cut large sheets that you cannot guide with the fence or miter gauge.
- Never cut more than one work piece at a time.
- When cutting always stand to one side and never directly in line with the blade.
- Never position your hands or fingers in the path of the saw blade.

- Never pull the work piece to finish the cut.
- Always use the blade guard, splitter and anti-kickback pawls for through cutting operations.
- Never cut freehand. Use the rip fence for rip cuts and the miter gauge for cross cuts.
- Never use the miter gauge and rip fence together.
- Do not release the work piece until it has been pushed completely past the saw blade.
- Never reach behind or over the saw blade while it is spinning.
- Do not remove cut offs, scrap or the work piece from the table until the saw blade has come to a complete stop. Coasting saw blades can cause serious injuries.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations.



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