

## Table Saws

Working with sharp, fast table saws requires heightened safety awareness.

### Potential Risks

- Cuts and amputations
- Debris kicked back toward an operator or nearby worker

Kickbacks occur when a spinning blade catches a piece of wood and throws it back toward an operator. A kickback is more likely to happen:

- If blade height is incorrect or if it is not maintained properly
- When an operator is ripping, rather than crosscutting
- If machine guards are altered or removed
- If a saw's teeth are broken
- If poor quality lumber is cut

### Saw Safety Tips

- Use a safety guide to maintain a straight cut at the desired width. When the cutting stroke is finished, the operator should either change position or push the wood past the blade. Self-feeding or power table saws are equipped with rollers or a conveyor system to hold the lumber through the cutting process.

- Replace cracked or damaged saw blades and maintain sharp blades.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Use saws equipped with anti-kickback fingers.
- For ripsaws, use a spreader to prevent material from squeezing the saw or causing a kickback.
- Do not use a crosscut blade for ripping or vice versa. Use the proper blade for the cut.
- Leave enough clearance for stock. Use a push stick to move along small pieces of wood past the blade.
- Keep your hands away from the line of cut.
- Use a hinged safety guard that self-adjusts to the thickness of the material being cut.
- Attach a brake to the motor's arbor assembly to stop the saw from "coasting" after the power has been switched off. Or, stay at the saw table after the motor is turned off to ensure the blade stops spinning.

Source: OSHA

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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