

Miter Saw Safety Precautions and Rules

Pre-Use Activities:

1. You must pass a competency test to use this machine. See your instructor if you have not completed this test and DO NOT use this machine until you have done so.
2. Inspect the miter or chop saw for damage or disrepair.
3. Assure the saw blade is not damaged and properly aligned, movable saw parts are not binding, and the swing arm and sliding assembly is functioning correctly.
4. Inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.
5. If a miter or chop saw fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor immediately.

Operating Precautions:

1. Wear industrial-quality safety glasses or a face shield when using a miter or chop saw.
2. Do not wear loose fitting clothing or jewelry that can be caught by moving parts.
3. Pull back long hair with a band or wear long hair under a cap.
4. Wear suitable hearing protection and dust mask (when necessary).
5. Keep saw fences and blade guards in place and functioning properly.
6. Assure saw blades are clean, sharp, and correctly set so that they will cut freely without forcing the blade against the workpiece.
7. Never feed the saw into the workpiece at a rate faster than it can accept.
8. Keep your fingers and hands at least four inches from a rotating saw blade.
9. Check stock for nails, screws, knots or imperfections in the wood. Do not attempt to cut pieces of stock that are too small to easily hold with your hands.
10. Never make free-hand cuts with a miter or chop saw.
11. Firmly brace the workpiece against the fence to prevent movement while cutting. If necessary, use clamps to secure the work piece.
12. The saw blade MUST be held IN THE DOWN POSITION after the cut is finished and before the blade stops rotating. Never pick up the saw when the blade is rotating.
13. Never reach behind, over, or under a saw blade unless it has stopped turning and the power has been disconnected.
14. Disconnect the power source before changing or adjusting the saw blade. Clean sawdust and scrap stock from the saw table (and floor) and dispose of it in trash.
15. The saw blade should be positioned DOWN AND IN ITS SAFEST POSITION when cutting is completed and the operator is leaving the work zone.

Caution: This machine can be dangerous. You must have permission to use this machine.