



Table and Radial Arm Saw Safety

West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety



Table and Radial Arm Saw Precautions:

- Review and understand information provided in the table or radial arm saw operator's manual, specifically the safety procedures.
- Follow user's manual specifications when operating a table or radial arm saw.
- Inspect table or radial arm saw for damage or disrepair.
- Notify supervisor and remove damaged table or radial arm saw from use by attaching red tag that states "DO NOT USE." If a table or radial arm saw fail the pre-use inspection. Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- Wear industrial-quality safety glasses or a face shield when using stationary power saws.
- Wear appropriate hearing protection
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing or jewelry that can be caught by moving parts.
- Tie long hair back or secure under a cap.
- Ensure saw fences, blade guards, spreaders, and anti-kick devices are in place and functioning properly.
- Assure saw blades are clean, sharp, and correctly set so that they will cut freely without forcing the work piece against the blade.
- Check stock for nails, screws, or other foreign objects prior to sawing.
- Assure that the table saw blade is set slightly above the thickness of the stock to be cut.
- Never feed the work piece faster than the saw can accept.
- Use a push stick to cut short or thin pieces of stock on a table saw.
- Never make free-hand cuts with a table saw; guide stock using a rip fence or miter gauge.
- Never reach behind, over, or under a saw blade unless it has stopped turning and the power has been disconnected.
- Disconnect the power source before changing or adjusting the saw blade.
- Clean saw dust and scrap stock from saw table and floor; and dispose of in trash when finished.

