Woodworking Tool Safety Infographic



WOODWORKING SAFETY TIPS

STAY SAFE

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned woodworker you are always learning something new and different. You will use a vast array of tools to carry out your woodworking but the most important tool of all is knowledge.

1 SAFETY GEAR

This might seem like a common sense kind of rule, but it's an important one to remember. During usage of loud power tools like routers and surface planers, wearing ear protection is a noted advantage. Similarly, wear latex gloves while applying finishes. **NEVER BE WITHOUT YOUR SAFETY GLASSES**. These should be the first thing you reach for when entering the shop.



2 WEAR THE RIGHT CLOTHES

The problem with wearing baggy or loose clothes is the very high chance that a part of them might get caught in a cutting head or saw blade. As a result, try to **always wear clothes that you are a better match for the woodworking environment**, but also protect you. Also always ensure that any dangling jewellery or metal such as chains or bracelets, are removed before commencing work.

3 STAY AWAY FROM BOOZE AND DRUGS

Intoxicating substances and woodworking are a dangerous mix. Stay out of the wood shop if you are even remotely under the influence of any intoxicants.

While it may seem harmless for the weekend woodworker to crack open a beer (or six) while working on a project, **avoid the temptation** until you're finished with the woodworking. You're going to be much less likely to encounter a problem if you're clean and sober when working with your power tools.

4 DISCONNECT POWER

Always remember to **disconnect the power source itself before changing blades** or bits on your power tools. In addition to ensuring the switch is off, make sure there is no electricity being powered to the tool, since the switch can malfunction and/or accidentally get turned on.

5 USE SHARP BLADES

This one seems like a no-brainer, but **a dull cutting tool is a dangerous tool**. If a saw blade is not as sharp as it ideally should be, the tool and the woodworker will have to work harder to complete the desired task. In such cases, the tool will be more likely to kick-back or bind. Besides, a sharper cutting tool will produce a cleaner cut, so there are more than just safety advantages here. Keep the blade sharp and clean of pitch, and you'll be safer and have better results.

6 DON'T REACH OVER

Always **wait until a spinning blade has stopped** moving before reaching to remove waste or cut-offs etc. Or to be on the extremely safe side, remove waste by using a push stick or piece of scrap so as to ensure an inadvertent power tool switch malfunction, doesn't turn deadly.

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Sources
http://www.woodworkweb.com/
http://woodworking.about.com/
http://www.leeswoodprojects.com/

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