

Cal Poly

Code of Safe Practice

Table Saw Safety

These safety practices shall be followed where a hazard exists to employees from use of a table saw.

Table Saw Safety Procedures

- ❑ Only operators trained in the safe operation of a table saw are allowed to use the saw.
- ❑ The operator should check the following points before operating the table saw:
 - ◆ Operator must wear safety glasses
 - ◆ If the material chips severely, a face shield should be used **in addition to** safety glasses
 - ◆ Blade should be checked for tightness
 - ◆ Check the hood guard and anti-kickback devices for proper operation
 - ◆ Verify location of off switch and/or emergency power disconnect
 - ◆ If used, check to ensure the fence is set properly and tight
 - ◆ Ensure that the table is clear of materials, tools, and debris
- ❑ All table saws must have a hood guard, splitter, and anti-kickback device installed. One or more of these devices may be removed **ONLY** if absolutely necessary to perform a specific cut (e.g. dado or rabbet) and only with the approval of a shop supervisor. These safety devices must be re-installed immediately after completing the cut(s).
- ❑ The fence and miter gauge should never be used together. Use the fence for ripping and the miter gauge for cross-cutting.
- ❑ Push sticks, feather boards, hold-downs, etc. must be used whenever an operation is performed that would require the operator's hands to pass within 6 inches of the saw blade.
- ❑ When boards over 3 feet in any dimension are cut, a helper should be used to assist in supporting the work.
- ❑ Blade height should be set so that the top of the teeth extend no more than 1/4 inch above the wood.
- ❑ The operator should stand to the side of the wood while it is being fed through the saw.
- ❑ After completing work, the saw blade should be lowered below the table.
- ❑ A two foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of debris and sawdust.
- ❑ When changing the blade or servicing the saw, the power disconnect must be locked in the "off" position. For saws with a cord and plug, the saw must be unplugged. The saw must be tested after disconnecting power and before beginning service.
- ❑ Wobble blades are not permitted on table saws.