

Toolbox Talk Details

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| Title | C15 - Woodworking machines |
| Reason | Woodworking machines can be particularly dangerous if they are not used properly. In order to function, at least a part of the blade must be exposed during use. |
| Outline | This talk covers safety precautions in the use of hand-held and floor-mounted woodworking machines. |

Types of woodworking machine

1. Woodworking machines include fixed and portable machines.
2. Examples include circular saws, bandsaws, routers and planers.

General precautions

1. Most woodworking machines are electrically powered, so ensure that the electrical supply cable is in good condition and out of harm's way.
2. Consider the risks to other people who are nearby when operating woodworking machines.
3. Do not operate any woodworking machine unless you have been trained to do so.
4. Ensure all fixed guards are in position.
5. Ensure all pivoting guards are free to move and properly positioned during use.
6. Ensure that you have the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) before starting work. This will usually include suitable hearing, eye and respiratory protection.
7. Ensure that you are not wearing any loose clothing.
8. Promptly clean up timber off cuts from the floor. Do not leave them as a tripping hazard.
9. Ensure that the supply is isolated and securely locked off during maintenance work.

Hand-held circular saws

1. Reduce the chance of fatal electric shock by using battery-operated or 110-volt tools. Where 240-volt equipment is permitted, ensure that a residual current device (RCD) is used.
2. Ensure the power lead is disconnected from the supply before adjusting the saw.
3. Adjust the depth and angle of cut, and the position of the fence before use.
4. Ensure dust extraction adaptors (on-tool extraction) and bags are fitted and used.
5. Ensure the blade is securely fixed, sharp and not cracked or damaged.

Floor-mounted woodworking machines

1. Check that the start and stop controls can be operated easily and without danger.
2. Ensure that the cutter or blade is guarded to the greatest practical extent.
3. Check that there is sufficient working space around each machine.
4. Ensure that the level and direction of lighting is satisfactory for safe working.
5. Use the dust and chip extraction system, where fitted.
6. Check that machines are level and securely fixed down for stability.

| Revision Date | Assessed By | Signature |
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| January 2021 | Michael Reddan |  |