

Toolbox Talk

75. Woodworking Machines



What?

- Woodworking machines come in various shapes and sizes and are designed for particular applications. Some machines are fixed where wood is fed into the machine and others are portable for applying to a workpiece. Most of them operate at high speed and have an exposed cutting edge in order to carry out the work

Why?

- Every year over 3,000 accidents occur involving woodworking machinery
- Wood dust is harmful to health; woodworking machines should be fitted with efficient means of collecting any dust or chippings produced during the machining process (Local Exhaust Ventilation systems)
- Well-designed push sticks, jigs, fences and holders etc are essential in keeping the hands in a safe position while maintaining full control of the work during cutting
- All woodworking machines should be fitted with a means of isolation from the electrical supply. The isolator should be conveniently positioned close to the machine

Do

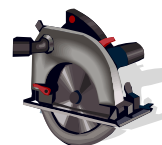


- ✓ Make sure you are trained and competent before operating woodworking machines
- ✓ Use a suitable push stick
- ✓ Ensure cutting tools on woodworking machines are kept in sharp condition.
- ✓ Ensure that there is sufficient clear and unobstructed space
- ✓ Ensure that you use the appropriate PPE at all times
- ✓ Check guards are in place and properly adjusted before starting the machine
- ✓ Verify stop and start buttons work properly
- ✓ Keep floors clear to avoid tripping hazards
- ✓ Remember to switch off when not in use

Don't



- ✗ Use flammable liquids in the workshop
- ✗ Work on woodworking machinery unless you are trained
- ✗ Leave any machine running if you are not in attendance
- ✗ Leave the machine until the blade or cutting edge has stopped
- ✗ Feed wood into saws with your hands – use a push stick
- ✗ Forget to isolate when not in use



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