



# CORNELL MACHINE SHOP SAFETY

## TABLE SAW SAFETY AWARENESS GUIDE



### MINIMUM REQUIRED PPE

- Safety Glasses
- Closed-Toe Shoes
- Hearing Protection

### HAZARDS & CONTROLS

- The high-speed rotating blade creates a significant amputation hazard. Always keep body parts away from the blade. Utilize push sticks and blade guards to achieve this. Never adjust the workpiece angle or fence while the blade is still in motion. Never reach towards the spinning blade to remove loose cuts (utilize the push stick).
- If the workpiece catches the backside of the blade or becomes bound between the blade and the fence, the workpiece can be launched back at the operator with great speed. This is known as kickback. Always use the fence to guide your workpiece straight through the entirety of the cut. Make sure to always utilize a riving knife/splitter and anti-kickback fingers.
- Properly maintain and sharpen the saw blade. Keep the blade at the proper height for the workpiece being cut (the top of the piece should be even with the gullet of the blade).
- The inward rotation of the cutting blade can cause an in-running nip point hazard. Do not wear loose-fitting clothes or jewelry and keep long hair tied back when operating a table saw.

## LIMITATIONS

- When performing crosscuts on a table saw, do not use the rip fence. Crosscutting requires the use of a miter gauge or sled.
- If a workpiece is wider than the maximum clearance between the blade and fence, then the piece should be cut down using a different tool.
- Cutting pieces that are taller than they are long, requires the use of jigs or clamps.
- Table saw should be primarily used for the cutting of wood and wood products. If there is a situation where other materials, such as plastic, needs to be cut on the saw, please make sure that the table and blade are rated for the task.

## MACHINE GUARDING



Anti-Kickback Pawls

Riving Knife/Splitter

Self-Adjusting Blade Guard

- The point of operation for a table saw should contain each of the following guards:
  - A self-adjusting blade guard to prevent accidental contact with the blade
  - A riving knife or splitter to keep workpiece away from backend of blade to avoid kickback
  - A set of anti-kickback pawls to catch the workpiece before it is kicked back

\*All three are OSHA requirements\*

## SHOP SPECIFIC PRECAUTIONS

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