



Table Saw Safety Manual Feed

Conventional table saws can be very dangerous if they are not guarded properly and if the operator fails to work safely. Improper use of the equipment or its condition can result in unnecessary injuries that can often be serious. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2016:

- Table saws accounted for almost 1,000 injuries involving days without work.
- 60 percent of these injuries involved employees having worked as least five years with an employer.
- Close to 50 percent of cases involved 31 or more days away from work.
- Almost 1 in 4 injuries resulted in amputations.

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It is critical to make every effort to reduce the risk of injuries. Follow these basic practices:

- Only authorized, formally trained users should work on a table saw. Never allow someone without training and experience to operate.
- Table saws should meet the minimum Cal-OSHA guarding standard, which includes:
 - Saw blade is enclosed with an adjustable or fixed barrier guard
 - Anti-kick back “claw” device is installed on the guard
 - Push stick or push block is provided
 - (*Visit https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/4300_1.html for more information on Cal-OSHA’s minimum requirements)
- It is critical that experienced operators be trained and reminded to work safely regardless of their experience or tenure with the company.
- The fencing mechanism and saw blade should be properly set up for each job.
- Always wear proper eye and hearing protection.
- Prohibit long hair, loose-fitting clothing or the use of gloves during table saw operation. As with any other rotating piece of machinery, these can get caught and cause serious injury.
- Wear non-skid shoes to help avoid any sudden movement while cutting.
- Never remove the guard or any other safety device. They are there for your protection.
- Always keep fingers away from the blade.
- Do not operate dangerous equipment if you are taking medication that can inhibit your ability to operate equipment safely. Please talk to your supervisor before operating this or other dangerous machines.
- Table saws should be maintained and have safety devices working properly.
- Never rush. Injuries can be prevented when you take the time to do the job safely.

