

Black Park Shed Safety instructions

Table saw

1. **Do not wear gloves while operating a table saw.** Apart from loss of tactile sense, the fabric can get caught in the teeth of the blade, drawing the whole hand into the blade.
2. **Wear proper eye protection.** Eyes need to be protected from damage by projectiles. Hearing protection is advisable as noise levels from the machine are high.
3. **Wear short sleeves or close buttoned sleeves.** Do not wear loose clothing, ties, necklaces or anything loose which can get caught in the blade.
4. **Keep the blade guards and riving knife in place and operating freely.** Check the action of these items before starting work. There are many videos around of people using table saws with no guard - DO NOT COPY THIS.
5. **Keep the floor in front of the saw free of cut-offs** and piled up sawdust.
6. **Position your body so that it is NOT in line with the blade.** This keeps you out of the line of most kick-backs.
7. **Stand comfortably, with your feet far enough apart for good balance.** This is always important, but more so when you're cutting stock long enough to require several steps towards the saw to keep the feed going.
8. **Avoid any awkward operations.** If you feel uncomfortable doing a cut, then don't do the cut in that manner. This helps you avoid losing your balance and possibly falling into the blade or table.
9. **Use a push stick to cut stock that is 6" or less in width.** A hand that isn't close to a blade isn't going to get cut. Do not let your hand get closer than 6"(150mm) to the blade.
10. **In general, it is best not to use the table saw for cross cutting** - the chop saw is much better and safer. However if you do use the table saw, use a stop block on the fence-this can be as simple as a clamped on board that stops just before the saw blade, so that cut-off pieces cannot bind between blade and fence.
11. **Check stock before cutting.** Look for nails, knots, screws, or stones.

12. **Adjust the cutting depth** to about 5mm more than the stock thickness.
13. **Always make sure that the blade is turning free before you turn on the power:** this is especially helpful after you make changes or adjustments. In other words, spin the blade without power a time or two to make sure there are no scraps or tools touching it.
14. **Never reach behind or over the blade unless it has stopped turning.** Sometimes this looks safe. It almost never truly is. This does not mean you should stop pushing your work before it finishes passing through the blade, itself an invitation to kick back.
15. **Always disconnect the power before changing the blade** or performing any other maintenance operation.
16. **Make sure that the blade has stopped turning** before you adjust the table saw.
17. **Keep the rip fence parallel to the blade** so stock doesn't bind on the blade and kick back.
18. **Never operate a table saw with the throat insert removed.** Wood that is fed into a gaping hole can drop down and get caught on the blade. That can't happen if the throat insert is in place.
19. **Do not make free-hand cuts on a table saw.** Guide the stock through the blade using the rip fence or the mitre gauge.
20. **Work should be released only when it is past the blade.** Releasing work too early is an invitation to kickback as it is possible for the blade to grab the part that has not yet gone by.
21. **Do not lift or tilt the stock above the surface of the table.** If you do, the saw is able to shake the stock. If this happens, and you lose your grip, the work is probably is going to kick back at you.