



# CIRCULAR SAW SAFETY

## Tool Box Talk

**Hand-held circular saws are powerful tools that can spin their blades at over 5,000 revolutions per minute. It's important to choose safety and always use saws properly and with care. Hazards to be aware of include noise, flying debris, electrical, and saw kickback. Saws should be inspected before use and only used by qualified personnel.**

### Safe setup prior to cutting:

- Always wear ANSI Z87.1+ safety glasses, goggles, or face shield with eye protection
- Hearing protection is recommended; saws are loud and longtime exposure may lead to hearing loss
- Wear proper respiratory protection when required
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that may be pulled into the saw
- While unplugged, check retracting lower blade guard to ensure it works freely
- Tighten blade-locking nut to manufacturer specifications
- While unplugged, set and lock blade depth so lowest tooth does not extend more than 0.3 cm ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " ) beneath the wood
- Keep all cords clear of cutting area
- Avoid holding or forcing the retracting lower guard in the open position unless the application requires it

### Maintenance & inspection things to look for:

- Loose blades
- Charged battery
- Guard in good condition
- Saw blade in good condition and sharp
- Remember to de-energize saw prior to performing any maintenance or adjustment
- If saw appears unsafe discontinue use

### Safety while cutting:

- Avoid cutting into blind areas
- Avoid twisting the saw to change, cut, or check alignment
- Saw should not need to be forced during cutting
- Check for obstructions or objects like nails and screws
- Do not carry the saw with a finger on the trigger switch
- Stand to the side when cutting to keep out of the line of cut if kickbacks occur, do not overextend— position your feet so you're balanced and in full control
- Be alert to the possibility of the blade binding and the potential for and kickback
- Always use both hands on the handles for maximum control, and secure work pieces so they don't move while cutting
- Do not rip stock without using a wedge or guide clamped or nailed to the stock

### Choose the right blade:

- Use sharp, undamaged blades
- Use correct blade for the tool and the application
- Make sure the speed marked on the blade is at least as high as the no load RPM marked on the tool

General safety practices are addressed: read the tool operator's manual for complete information



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