

## JOINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Do Not use the jointer if you are too tired, hungry, sad, mad, or dehydrated. Never work while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any medication that creates drowsiness or impaired thinking.
2. Never use the jointer until you have been trained on and understand the safety. Issues and procedures specific to use of the jointer. Obtain advice from your instructor or woods hop manager if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of the jointer.
3. Plan ahead; think of the sequence of cuts that need to be made. Think about where your hands are going to be before, during, and after the operation.
4. Pay attention to your “gut feeling” or that “little voice in the back of your head,” if something doesn't feel right or if an operation feels dangerous then it probably is so STOP and think it through and/or talk with your instructor or woodshop manager. There is probably a safer way to do the operation.
5. Always wear eye and ear protection when using the jointer. Wearing a dust mask is always a good idea.
6. Do not wear loose clothing or gloves. Remove watch, all jewelry and tie back long hair or beards.
7. Like all machines you must give the jointer your undivided attention during use. Once you have, begun making a cut you must keep your complete focus on that operation until the cut is complete. Do not look up at activity that may be happening around you or engage in conversation while making a cut.

8. Check that the jointer is in working condition. Get into the habit of doing a "pre-flight" checking procedure. The following should be checked before use.
  - a. Is the fence tightened and square? If not please have the instructor, studio manager, or monitor adjust the fence.
  - b. Is the cutterhead guard in place and covering the knives?

### **HAND SAFETY**

Never pass the hands directly over the cutterhead. As one hand approaches the knives remove it from the stock in an arc motion and place it back on the wood on the outfeed table in a position beyond the cutterhead.

**NEVER** have fingers hanging off the front or side of the board or the thumb or palm of your hand trailing or pushing the board. Instead, use a hold down push block or push board to move the wood over the knives in the cutterhead.

**THREE INCH RULE:** The hands must never be closer than three inches to the cutterhead.

Never apply pressure to wood directly over cutterhead. This may result in the stock tipping into the cutterhead along with your fingers. Follow the 3 inch rule. Position hands away from the extreme ends of the wood, and push through with a smooth, even motion. Use push blocks.

9. Inspect the condition of your boards for potential problems (loose knots, spalting, rot, dirt, nails, staples, extreme bowing, cupping, or twist).
10. Check the grain direction and joint the board going with the grain.
11. Your boards must be at least 12 inches long or longer and at least half (1/2) of an inch in thickness.

12. A safe depth of cut is 1/16 inch - this is permanently set - do not change this setting.
13. Do NOT joint endgrain or crossgrain.
14. Do not joint plywood, MDF, or painted wood.
15. Never start the machine with the wood in contact with the jointer knives.
16. Turn on the dust collection system before turning on the jointer, be sure to turn off both when finished.
17. Properly support long work pieces with infeed and outfeed rollers.
18. Turn the machine off and wait for the cutterhead to come to a complete stop prior to cleaning the work area, removing debris, or making any adjustments. The cutterhead will spin silently for 1-2 minutes after the power is turned off-the guard must stay over the cutterhead. As it is spinning to a stop it is still very dangerous to come in contact with.
19. Never perform layout, assembly, or setup work on the jointer table while the machine is running.
20. Like all machines you must give the jointer your undivided attention during use and while it is on. Become familiar with the sound of the machine and stay alert to any new sounds or vibrations.
21. When the work is complete, turn off the machine, clean the work area (jointer tables and floor area) and remove all your stock and scraps.
22. Please realize there are no shortcuts in woodworking. When beginning work on the jointer, mentally prepare yourself for a pace of work that is slower, more- deliberate, and safety conscious. Accept the fact that everything will take longer than you think. Always err on the side of caution.

Familiarity with the jointer breeds confidence and competence so practice often and ask questions and get help as you need it.

