

MITER SAW AND RADIAL ARM SAW SAFETY AND PRACTICE

1. Do Not use the miter saw 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 miter saw until you have been trained on and understand the safety issues and procedures specific to use of the miter saw. Obtain advice from your instructor or woodshop manager if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of the miter saw.
3. Plan ahead; think of the sequence of cuts that need to be made. Keep your wood as long as possible, for as-long as possible so you are not working with very small pieces of wood. Minimum length is 12 inches.

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 miter saw. 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 miter saw 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 miter saw is in working condition. Get into the habit of doing a "pre-flight" checking procedure. Keep in mind that you do not know who or for what the saw was used prior to your arrival at the saw. The following should be checked before use:
 - a. Is the area around the saw, table, and floor clear of debris and scraps of wood, if not clear it first before proceeding.
 - b. Is the fence clear of the path of the blade? When making beveled cuts make sure the fence has been slid away from the path of the blade. Be sure the fence is tightened down again after you move it.
 - c. Is the miter table secure, the handle should be in the lock position. Push down on the miter lock lever/handle to lock the miter table in place.
 - d. Is the bevel adjustment /lock handle tightened? If not, turn the handle clockwise to tighten.
 - e. Is the guard in place over the saw blade?
9. Check the condition of your wood; is it free of staples, nails, loose knots, splits, extreme bow or crook, dirt, paint, plaster, excessive glue?
10. Do NOT cut anything other than wood without the approval of your instructor, studio manager, or monitor.
11. Be certain that the board is against the fence and touching the table at least where it is being cut. The wood should be as flat as possible and have a reasonably straight edge to go against the fence.
12. Keep hands out of the path of the saw blade. NEVER CUT A PIECE WHERE YOUR HAND WOULD BE 6 INCHES OR LESS FROM THE BLADE. Find a safe way to secure the work as it must be held down to the table top and

against the fence during the entire cutting process.

13. NEVER cross arms in front of blade.
14. For the sliding compound miter saw if cutting anything wider than 4 inches use an out-down-back motion with the rail lock knob loosened. Pull the saw out toward you, lower the saw down toward the workpiece, and push the saw back to complete the cut. Do not allow the saw to come in contact with the top of the workpiece while pulling out as it may cause the blade to run toward you.
15. You must have control of the piece of wood that you are cutting by holding, clamping or some type of jig to secure the piece.
16. Never force the blade through the cut. Stop and figure out where the resistance is coming from and fix it before proceeding. Allow the motor to reach full speed before cutting.
17. Use a steady feed rate when cutting, go neither too fast or too slowly.
18. Never place one piece of wood on top of the other- cut one piece of wood at a time.
19. Don't move either hand from the saw or workpiece or raise the saw arm until the blade has stopped. This is especially true if the off cuts are small as they may become projectile if the saw arm is raised while the blade is still spinning.
20. Do not stand directly in front of the path of the blade.
21. Do not reach behind or underneath the saw unless it is turned off and unplugged. Remember some saw blades will continue to spin for several minutes after the motor has been turned off.
22. Do not perform any operation freehand - the workpiece MUST be supported by-the table and against the fence.

23. For the radial arm saw if cutting a board wider than the capacity of the saw, cut a little past halfway, then turn the board over and finish the cut from the opposite edge.