

PLANER SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Do Not use the planer 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 planer until you have been trained on and understand the safety issues and procedures specific to use of the planer. Obtain advice from your instructor or woods hop manager if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of the planer.
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 planer. 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 planer 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. Inspect the wood before machining it. The wood must be free of metal (nails and staples), dirt, loose knots, splits, rot, extreme short grain or severe warping.
9. Do not plane plywood, MDF, painted wood.
10. The boards should be planed with the grain.
11. The distance between the infeed and outfeed rollers determines the minimum length of wood that can be planed. The minimum length is 12 inches and the minimum thickness is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. A board that is too short can kickback towards you.
12. Do NOT look directly into the planer while it is running. Wood can break off in the milling process and come shooting back at you.
13. The depth of cut is proportional to the width and hardness of the wood. $\frac{1}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch depth of cut is typical.
14. Do not mill boards of different thicknesses at the same time.
15. Set the table height according to the board that is the thickest.
16. Never start the machine with the wood in contact with the planer knives.
17. Turn on the dust collection system before turning on the planer, be sure to turn off both when finished.
18. Stand to one side of your boards as you are feeding it into the planer.
19. Hold the board down flat to the infeed table.
20. Do Not force the boards into the knives, allow the automatic feed rollers to pull the work into and past the knives.

21. Never reach under the cutterhead while the planer is running.
22. Properly support long work pieces with infeed and outfeed rollers.
23. If the board comes to a stop while cutting, turn off the machine and then raise the cutterhead to the correct setting.
24. Turn the machine off and wait for the planer 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.
25. Never perform layout, assembly, or setup work on the planer table while the machine is running.
26. Like all machines you must give the planer 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.
27. When the work is complete, turn off the machine, clean the work area (planer table and floor area) and remove all your stock and scraps.
28. Unplug the machine, raise the stopped cutterhead and vacuum out the inside area of the planer and the tables if it is filled with sawdust.
29. Please realize there are no shortcuts in woodworking. When beginning work on the planer, 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 planer breeds confidence and competence so practice often and ask questions and get help as you need it.