



## Powered Circular Saw Safety

Powered circular saws are used for cutting different types and thicknesses of wood. They can be dangerous and should be used with caution. Finger amputations and cuts to the thigh and leg may happen if the operator does not know how to use the saw safely.

**Good work practices:**

- Always use personal protective equipment when using a saw.
- Wear safety glasses to protect the eyes.
- Wear a dust mask so you don't breathe saw dust.
- Make sure the saw blade is sharp enough to do the job. Oil saw blades after each use.
- Turn the saw off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before unplugging.
- Direct sharp points and cutting edges away from yourself and others.
- Do not throw tools from one location to another or from one employee to another.
- Make sure the retractable lower blade guard is working properly.

**Discussion questions:**

1. Should a saw be turned off while the blade is sitting in the wood? Can this cause the saw to jump?
2. Why is it important to check for nails, screws and knots before beginning a cut?
3. Should a saw be forced to cut through wood?
4. During a plunge cut, can the saw blade walk back across the surface?
5. What is the safest way to cut more than one piece of ply board at a time?

**Meeting note:**

Employee comments/concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Training record:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jobsite/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee name (print) / (signature)	Employee name (print) / (signature)
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(Continue recording signatures on a separate sheet of paper)  
 Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1 (d), 2. (b), 3. (c), 4. (a), 5. (a), 6. (b)



## Powered Circular Saw Safety

Powered circular saws can be dangerous and should be used with caution. Finger amputations and cuts to the thigh and leg may happen if the operator does not know how to use the saw safely.

### Do:

- Always use two hands when operating a saw. One hand should be on the front knob handle, and the other should be on the trigger.
- The blade should be set so that its bottommost tooth is 1/8 – 1/4 inch below the work piece.
- Unplug the power source before making an adjustment to the saw.

### Do NOT:

- Do not Force the saw to cut wood.
- Twist or turn the saw during use.
- Use force to open or close the blade guard.
- Reach under a blade guard.



## Employee Quiz

### Topic: Powered Circular Saw Safety

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer below.

1. Powered circular saws are used for cutting different types and thicknesses of:

- A. Metal
- B. Wires
- C. Nails
- D. Wood

2. When using a powered circular saw it's suitable to only use one hand.

- A. True
- B. False

3. When operating a powered circular saw, what should be worn on your face?

- A. Everyday sunglasses
- B. Gloves
- C. Safety glasses and dust mask
- D. No safety protective equipment necessary

4. Make sure the saw blade is sharp enough to do the job. Oil saw blades after each use.

- A. True
- B. False

5. Unplug the power source before making an adjustment to the saw.

- A. True
- B. False

6. The blade should be set so that its bottommost tooth is \_\_\_\_\_ below the work piece.

- A. 1/2 inch
- B. 1/8-1/4 inch
- C. 1/3 inch
- D. 1/2-3/4 inch

Training record: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jobsite/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_