



OHSA Training Toolbox Talk #04

Power Saws

Know your power saw!

- Read the manual carefully - learn the applications and limitations, as well as the specific potential hazards to the tool.
- Ground all tools, unless they are double insulated.
- If the tool is equipped with a three-prong plug, it should be plugged into a three-hole receptacle. Never remove the third prong.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Avoid dangerous environments and don't use the saw in wet locations. Make sure you have adequate light to work-in.
- Choose the right saw for the work you're doing. If in doubt, check with your supervisor.

Safety and efficiency go hand in hand. A power saw in good condition, with a sharp blade, is not only safer but does a faster and better job.



If you're using a table saw:

- Make sure the saw and motor frame are properly grounded.
- Keep your body out of line with the wood being sawed.
- Use a pusher stick when feeding wood near the blade.
- Use a brush to remove scrap from the table - not your hands.
- Shut off the power while adjusting the saw hood or gauge.
- Lock power controls in the off position (and where possible, unplug the electric cord) before changing saw blades.

Get help when sawing long material. Always keep the area around the saw free of loose material that can cause tripping. Wear proper apparel - no loose clothing or jewelry that could get caught in moving parts. Wear suitable eye-protection when using power saws. Safety glasses are a must, as a stray splinter or wood chip can cause injury or even the loss of an eye.

- Never force a power saw - always use the right size tool for the job.
- Don't abuse the cord - never carry the saw by the cord or yank it to disconnect from the plug socket.
- Avoid accidental starting - don't carry a plugged in power saw with your finger on the switch.

Guards are there for your protection. Never bypass or remove a guard or any other safety device on your power saw.

