



**SAFE
WORK**
MANITOBA

HAZARD ALERT

Table Saws – the Most Dangerous Shop Tools

Working with table saws carries significant potential for injury. In several recent Manitoba incidents, the guard was removed from the table saw and the operator made contact with the blade. These cases resulted in amputation of fingers and serious lacerations to the workers.

Prevention measures

For every workplace in which a machine or tool is used, the employer must develop and implement safe work procedures, as outlined in Part 16 of the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulation*. For assistance in developing these procedures, visit [SAFE Work Procedure Templates](#).

SAFE Work Manitoba reminds employers that they must:

- Develop and implement written Safe Work Procedures for the table saw.
- Ensure that all workers who will use the table saw are trained in these Safe Work Procedures.
- Ensure that all workers comply with these Safe Work Procedures.

Quick tips:

- ✓ Guard and guide use is mandatory. Ensure that guides are in place and operating.
- ✓ Use the proper blade for the job, and make sure it is clean, sharp and properly set.
- ✓ Table saws should be operated in a well-lit, non-congested and clean workspace.
- ✓ Keep your body to the side of the saw blade – out of line from a possible kickback.
- ✓ Do not reach around or over a moving saw blade.
- ✓ Wear proper personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection, proper work boots, a dust mask and, as required, a respirator. **Do not wear gloves!**
- ✓ Do not wear jewelry or loose clothing, since these can get caught in the table saw. Be sure to tie back long hair as well.
- ✓ Do not leave the saw unattended while it is powered up or the blade is moving.
- ✓ Complete all required maintenance.
- ✓ When changing the blade or doing maintenance:
 - stop the machine
 - disconnect power and lock out the machine
 - replace the saw blade (if necessary).

For additional measures, review: [Tip Card – Working with a Table Saw](#)