WORKSAFE TIPS

CIRCULAR SAW SAFETY RULES

• Always wear eye protection when using circular saws.
• Hearing protection is recommended as saws are very loud and can lead to hearing loss.
• Set the saw cutting depth as shallow as possible – avoid letting the blade protrude much below the stock being cut.
• Never set a circular saw down unless the blade has stopped.
• Change blades only when unplugged.
• Do not hold or force the retracting lower guard in the open position.
• Do not place hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.
• Do not over tighten the blade-locking nut.
• Do not twist the saw to change, cut or check alignment.
• Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe in any way.
• Do not force the saw during cutting – forcing can cause kickback.
• Do not cut materials without first checking for obstructions or other objects such as nails and screws.
• Do not carry the saw with a finger on the trigger switch.
• Do not overreach.
• Make sure to keep proper footing and balance.
• Do not rip stock without using a wedge or guide clamped or nailed to the stock.

MORE CIRCULAR SAW SAFETY RULES

• Any bodily contact with the saw will cause injury.
• Tie up loose clothing and hair, and remove jewelry that could be pulled into the saw.
• Operate circular saw with a good footing, and make sure the area is clear of trip hazards.
• Make adjustments with the saw unplugged.
• Verify that the saw blade or abrasive cutting disc has a RPM rating ABOVE the saw RPM.
• Never saw free-handed.
• Make sure the stock will not fall and “bind” the circular saw – kickback can occur.
• Use a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) when operating in outside, wet or damp locations.

GENERAL TOOL INSPECTION CRITERIA

• Inspect tools for any damage prior to each use.
• Check the handle and body casing of the tool for cracks or other damage.
• If the tool has auxiliary or double handles, make sure they’re installed securely.
• Inspect cords for defects: check the power cord for cracking, fraying, and other signs of wear or faults in the cord insulation.
• Check for damaged switches and switches with faulty trigger locks.
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