

WOODWORKING MACHINES - MITRE SAWS

What should you do before using a mitre saw?

- Mitre saws can be dangerous if not used properly.
 - Read the owner's manual carefully.
 - Make sure you know and understand the instructions before attempting to use any tool or machine.
 - Learn the applications and limitations before use.
 - Refer to Woodworking Machines - General Safety Tips for more information.
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What safety precautions should you follow when using a mitre saw?

- Wear safety glasses or goggles, or a face shield (with safety glasses or goggles).
- If work is dusty, use a respirator or dust mask.
- Wear appropriate hearing protection.
- Wear protective footwear when required.
- Attach the saw firmly on a workbench or other rigid frame and operate saw at waist height. The saw can also be taken to remote locations by mounting it on a piece of plywood 13 mm (1/2 in.) or thicker. This must be clamped to a waist high work surface on the job site with large "C" clamps.
- Keep one hand on the trigger switch and handle and use the other hand to hold the stock against the fence.
- Keep hands out of the path of the blade.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Remove adjusting keys and wrenches.
- Use a crosscut or combination blade.
- Ensure that the blade rotates in the correct direction.
- Ensure that the blade and arbour collars are secure and clean. Recessed sides of collars should be against blade.
- Keep blade tight, clean, sharp and properly set so that it cuts freely and easily.
- Allow motor to reach full speed before cutting.
- Follow instructions for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Keep the work area clean. Cluttered areas and benches invite accidents.
- Keep the work area well lit.
- Reduce the risk of unintentional start-up. Make sure saw switch is in OFF position before plugging in.
- Unplug tools before servicing and when not in use.
- Check for damage. Repair or replace damaged parts.
- Keep motor air slots clean and free of chips.
- Use only the accessories designed for the specific saw and job.

What should you avoid when using a mitre saw?

- Do not operate the saw on ground.
- Do not cut pieces smaller than 20 cm (8 in.) in length.
- Do not cut "free hand." The stock should lie solidly on the table against the fence.
- Do not reach around or behind the saw blade.
- Do not take your hand away from the trigger switch and handle until the blade is fully covered by the lower blade guard.
- Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- Do not force the saw. The saw cuts better and more safely at the rate for which it was designed.
- Do not leave the saw until it has stopped completely. Turn the power off and unplug the saw.
- Do not use electric tools in damp or wet locations.
- Do not operate electric tools near flammable liquids or in gaseous or explosive atmospheres. Sparks may ignite fumes.

