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Safe Job Procedure for Circular Saw Use

1. Pre-operation check/inspection

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Disconnect the power cord from the electrical outlet before inspecting, adjusting, cleaning or repairing the saw or changing blades.
- Inspect the saw and power cord for damage prior to each use.
- Ensure the blade is sharp.
- Ensure the blade is the correct type for the material to be cut.
- Ensure the blade is securely mounted.
- Ensure the blade is in good condition; no nicks or cracks.
- Ensure the retracting lower blade guard is working freely.
- Check the blade for proper blade rotation.
- Check the material for any defects such as warps or knots and foreign objects such as nails, staples or screws.
- Adjust the blade depth to no more than ½ inch (1.3 cm) beyond the lower face of the material.

2. Operation

- Secure and adequately support the material to be cut.
- To rip material use a guide that is clamped or nailed to the material.
- Be aware of sawdust and debris from cutting the material.
- Keep all electrical cords clear of the cutting area.
- Ensure an adequate length of cord is available to fully complete the cut.
- Use both hands to operate the saw; one on the trigger handle and the other on the front knob.
- Keep your body to the left side of the blade; never in line with the saw blade just in case of a kickback.
- The weight of the saw must always be on the clamped side of the stock.
- Start the saw with the shoe in contact with the stock, but the blade clear of the stock.
- Allow the saw to attain full power before cutting.
- Always cut in a straight line.
- Allow off-cuts to fall.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at constructionsafetyns.ca or 1.800.971.3888.



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- If the blade binds or when interrupting a cut, release the trigger and hold the saw motionless until the blade comes to a complete stop.
- Keep the guard free from an accumulation of sawdust and chips.
- Ensure the retracting lower blade guard is fully returned and the blade has fully stopped before setting the saw down.
- Disconnect the power cord before adjusting or changing the blade or performing regular maintenance.

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