



35 MacDonald Ave,  
Dartmouth, NS, B3B 1C6  
Tel: 902 468 6696  
Toll Free NS: 1 800 971 3888  
Fax: 902 468 8843  
Web: [www.constructionsafetyns.ca](http://www.constructionsafetyns.ca)

## Safe Job Procedure for Table Saw Use

### Pre-operation inspection and set-up

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Disconnect the power cord from the electrical outlet before inspecting, adjusting, cleaning or repairing the saw.
- Check the work area for any debris or trip hazards; clean the area.
- Ensure the blade is sharp (dull blades bind and overheat).
- Ensure the blade is the correct type for the material and operation.
- Ensure the blade is properly seated, tightened and aligned.
- Ensure the blade is in good condition; no nicks, cracks or missing teeth.
- Check the blade for proper blade rotation.
- Ensure the throat plate is the correct type and it is properly installed.
- Check the stock for any defects such as warps or knots and foreign objects such as nails, staples or screws; remove all metal objects.
- Ensure there is enough room to maneuver the stock from front to back and to the side of the table saw.
- Ensure the guard and safety devices are in place and are working properly.
- If the stock is large or heavy get help, use auxiliary rollers and/or a table extension.
- Set the saw blade slightly higher than the stock; ¼ inch (6mm).
- Ensure the guide fence/miter gauge is locked into position.
- Ensure the guide fence is parallel with the blade.
- Ensure the stock is not touching the saw blade.
- Ensure the table is clear of all objects (e.g. tools, scraps of wood, etc).

### 1. General Operation

- Power up the table saw.
- Allow the blade to come to full speed before starting to cut the stock.
- Stand to one side (left or right) while operating the saw. In case the material kicks back you do not want your body in line with the blade.
- Using the miter guide or push stick to push stock through the blade.
- Pass the stock completely through the blade then power down the saw.
- Wait for the blade to completely stop before removing the material.
- Remove any debris from the table top before cutting other pieces.
- Turn the saw blade down to the lowest position when finished.

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](http://constructionsafetyns.ca) or 1.800.971.3888.



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## 2. Ripping

- Hold the stock down on the table and firmly against the guide fence.
- Start the cut slowly.
- Hold the stock with both hands and push it along the fence into the saw blade. Use a push stick if the material is less than 6 inches wide.
- Continue to feed the stock through the blade until it is completely cut and past the anti-kickback device.
- Remove the larger outside piece and place it out of the way.
- Do not try to remove the cut off stock (piece adjacent to the fence) until the blade has completely stopped.

## 3. Cross Cutting

- Hold the stock against the miter gauge and down on the table. Do not hold the piece that is being cut off.
- Start the cut slowly. Continue the feed until the material is cut.
- Shift the work piece sideways to move it away from the blade.
- Pull the miter gauge and work piece back to the start position.
- Do not try to remove the cut off stock until the blade has completely stopped.

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