



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
University Environmental Health and Safety

## APPENDIX D - Power Saws

The following are general requirements when working with different types of saws:

### Circular Saws

- Powered circular saws having a blade greater than 2 inches in diameter must be equipped at all times with guards. An upper guard must cover the entire blade of the saw. A retractable lower guard must cover the teeth of the saw, except where it makes contact with the work material. The lower guard must automatically return to the covering position when the tool is withdrawn from the work material.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly.

### Table Saws

- Adjust the blade to project 1/8 inch above the wood.
- Ensure that the work piece does not contact the blade when starting or stopping the saw.
- Keep body away from the saw.
- Use a push stick when cutting narrow pieces.
- When the saw is not in use, make sure the saw blade is lowered below the tabletop.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly.

### Saber Saws

- Select the proper blade for the job.
- Do not turn on the saw when the blade is in contact with the work piece.
- Hold the saw firmly with one hand and hold the work piece with the other hand.
- Keep hands and other objects clear of the blade.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly

### Radial Arm Saws:

- Lay the wood on the table and against the saw's back guide. The blade should rotate downward. Pull the saw with one hand and hold the wood with the other. Never reach across the line of cut. Return the saw to the rear position after completing a cut.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly.

**Miter Saws:**

- Miter saws use a downward cutting motion, so the user must keep hands and fingers away from the blade's path.
- Use only the recommended size and rpm rated blades.
- When installing or changing a blade, make sure that the blade and all fasteners are correctly positioned and secured to the saw.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly.

**Band Saws:**

- Set the saw blade evenly and with the correct tension.
- For large pieces to be cut, push the cutting item through the blade with the hands on both sides of the line of cut.
- For small pieces to be cut, use rip or crosscut fences and a push stick.
- Lower the band guard to just above the piece to be cut.
- Make sure the blade is sharp, undamaged, and secured.
- Make sure that all guards are attached and working properly.

