

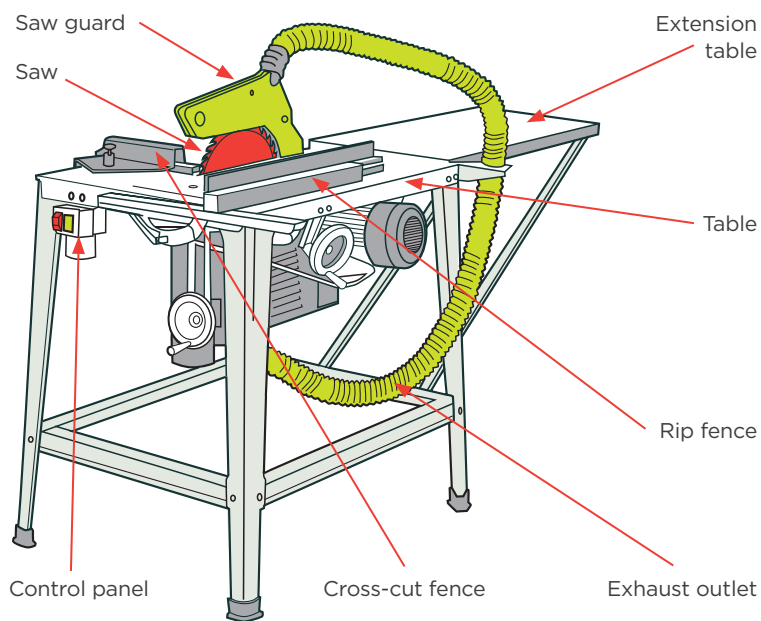
FACT SHEET

CIRCULAR SAW BENCHES

Circular saws (including sliding table dimensioning saws and tilting arbor saws) are useful tools to quickly cut timber, chipboard or MDF. Some circular saws can also cut concrete and masonry.

More than 80% of serious harm accidents concerning circular saws involve missing or poorly adjusted guards, or push sticks not being used.

FIGURE 1: CIRCULAR SAW BENCHES



HAZARDS:

- > Entanglement from contact with blade
- > Contact or impact from poor tooling
- > Noise
- > Dust
- > Slips, trips & falls
- > Contact or impact from unexpected movement (during maintenance, cleaning & repairs)

PPE:



TASK - FEED MATERIAL INTO BLADE

Hazard	Harm	Controls
Entanglement from contact with blade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Serious harm - amputation of fingers; bone fractures and deep cuts to hands and fingers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > FIX adjustable hood guards to all benches, large enough to cover the blades, to prevent contact with blade and access underneath the machine table. > REPLACE guards before making trial cuts after tool setting or adjustment. > KEEP push sticks by each machine (at least 300 mm long and jagged to grip the work piece). > USE power feeds/automatic feeding devices whenever possible. > FIT a steel riving knife to every circular saw. > ENSURE knives are securely mounted, have a smooth surface, slanting leading edge, and curved to the shape of the saw blade. > USE extension tables and roller stands on the in-feed and out-feed sides to support larger work pieces.

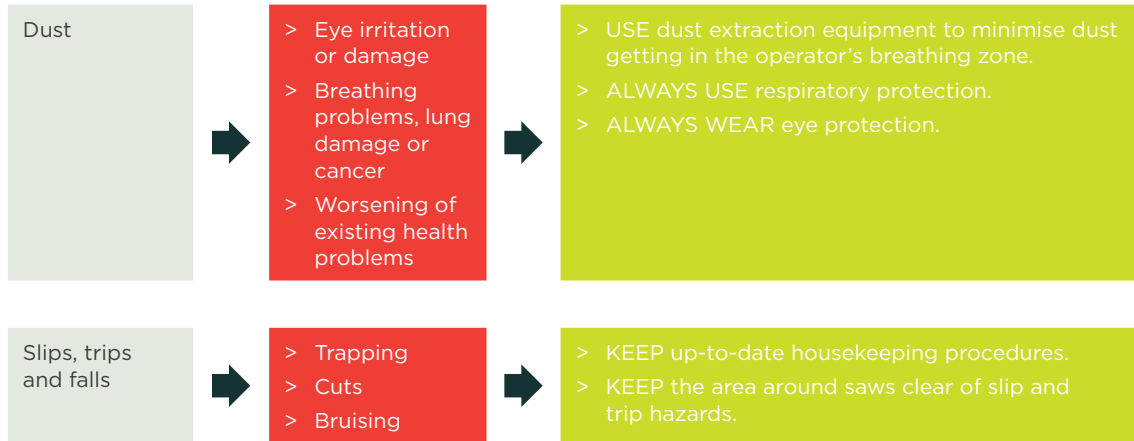
Circular saws should NOT be used for rebating or grooving unless properly guarded. Stopped work should only be done on a vertical spindle moulding machine. Guards should be used with pre-scoring saw blades. Guards may need readjusting after each job to ensure the guard is never more than 12 mm above the work being cut. The distance between the back of the extension table and the blade should be minimum 1.2 metres.

Contact or impact from poor tooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bruising > Fractures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > KEEP tools safely maintained. > MARK tools with their maximum rotational speed, and DO NOT exceed. > DO NOT use unmarked saw blades. > Any woodworking machines designed, manufactured or supplied after 2001 SHOULD HAVE a braking device fitted. > RETRO-FIT older machines with a braking device where possible. > ISOLATE saws to minimise the chance of a person being hit by timber.
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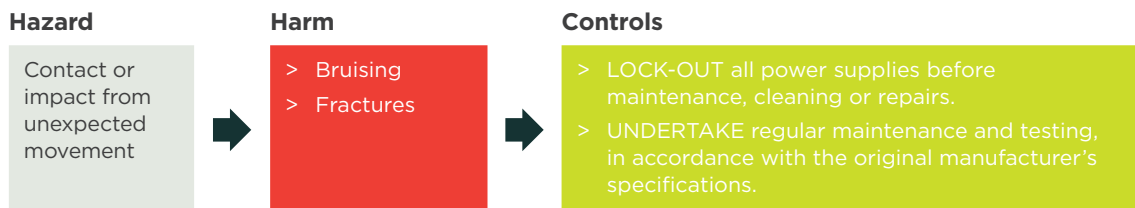
OTHER (NON-MECHANICAL) HAZARDS

Hazard	Harm	Controls
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hearing damage or loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > REDUCE noise levels by isolating machines or enclosing within noise barriers. > ASSESS noise levels. > ARRANGE hearing screenings. > ALWAYS WEAR hearing protection.

A safe noise level over an eight hour day is 85db. A circular saw may exceed this noise intensity.

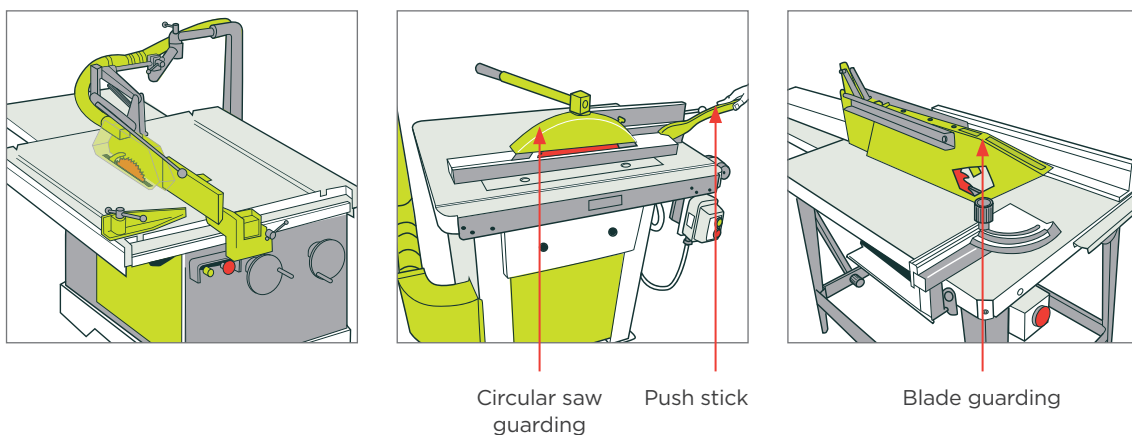


TASK - MAINTENANCE, CLEANING & ADJUSTMENTS



Instructions MUST be provided in a language that operators understand.

FIGURE 2: PREVENT ACCESS TO THE ROTATING SAW BLADE. THIS CAN BE DONE BY USING RIP AND CROSSCUT FENCES, ADJUSTABLE HOOD GUARDS, RIVING KNIVES AND PUSH STICKS.



References, current standards and further information can be found on the Safe Use of Machinery project page at: www.worksafe.govt.nz

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