

Plant

12.01.04

# Circular saws >

**This information bulletin provides information on the safe use of circular saws. Circular saws are designed for right-handed operation. Left-handed use demands much more care if the saws are to be used safely.**

## Always

- **WEAR** safety glasses or a faceshield.
- **WEAR** hearing protection.
- **WEAR** an approved respirator when exposed to dust.
- **TIE UP** long hair so that it will not get caught by the rotating saw blade.
- **WEAR** tight clothing or button up or tuck away loose clothing.
- **ALWAYS** ensure the saw is connected through an RCD (Residual Current Device).
- **USE** a sharp blade designed for the work you are doing.
- **CHECK** the retracting lower blade guard often to make sure that it works freely. It should cover the teeth as completely as possible and cover the portion of the blade that is not cutting.
- **LET** the saw reach full power before cutting.
- **MAKE** sure the lower blade guard is fully returned before putting the saw down.
- **DISCONNECT** the saw from the power supply before adjusting or changing the blade.
- **KEEP** all electrical power cords clear of the cutting area.
- **USE** both hands to operate the saw - one on the trigger switch, the other on the front knob handle.
- **KEEP** the upper guard and the retracting lower blade guard clean and free of sawdust.
- **KEEP** the motor and its housing clean and free of oil, sawdust and woodchips.

## Always

- **CHOOSE** the proper blade for the work being cut and always allow it to cut steadily - do not force it.
- **CHECK** the saw often to see that the blade is spinning smoothly and evenly.
- **CHECK** that the saw blade has been fitted correctly and will rotate in the right direction.
- **CLAMP** or wedge the work being cut so that it cannot move.

putting safety first &gt;



## Never

- **NEVER** hold the retracting lower guard in the open position.
- **NEVER** place your hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.
- **NEVER** over-tighten the blade locking nut.
- **NEVER** twist the saw blade while cutting.
- **NEVER** use a saw which vibrates or seems unsafe in any way.
- **NEVER** force the saw at any time during cutting.
- **NEVER** cut anything without first checking for obstructions such as nails and screws. They could shatter the blade, sending metal fragments flying about, or could be violently ejected by the blade and cause serious injury.
- **NEVER** carry a saw with your finger on the trigger switch.
- **NEVER** over-reach. Keep a firm footing and a proper balance at all times.
- **NEVER** rip the work without using a guide which is clamped or nailed to the workplace.

## Six steps to safety

There are six basic rules to follow when using hand tools and portable power tools. Following these rules will reduce the risk of accident or injury.

- 1) Choose the right tool for the job and use it correctly.
- 2) Keep tools in good condition.
- 3) Keep tools in a safe place and away from children.
- 4) Reduce workplace hazards (such as slippery floors) in the work area.
- 5) Make sure that people using tools have been properly trained and are supervised.
- 6) Wear personal protective equipment – goggles, face shield, ear muffs, and gloves where necessary.
- 7) A range of other information bulletins are available relating to 'Working with Electricity' and Residual Current Devices (RCDs). Contact NT WorkSafe for details.

## NT WorkSafe >

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