

Jointer Safety Rules

Jointers are machines used to prepare stock for making joints and smoothing the edge or surface of stock. They have high speed rotating knives that remove material as it is pushed past the rotating jointer knives. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the MakeIt Labs Jointer. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Jointer Safety Rules:

1. Keep cuts to less than 1/16".
2. Do not joint stock less than 12" in length.
3. Do not joint stock narrower than 3" without a push stick.
4. Do not surface stock wider than the blades are long.
5. Do not joint stock thinner than 5/8".
6. Never put your hands over the cutter area.
7. Always feed toward the out feed table.
8. Never operate the jointer without guards.
9. Use the left hand to hold down; use the right hand for pushing stock.
10. Never use your thumb as a push stick.
11. Walk with the board through the cut on long boards.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A perimeter around the jointer should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection should be worn.
3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
4. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the MakeIt Labs Shop and on the jointer with a safe attitude!
2. While machine is off and stopped, make all adjustments, see that all adjusting handles are tight & locked, and check fence for square.

3. Move the fence to different positions over the cutter head to avoid dulling the blades.

4. Avoid cuts deeper than 1/8" per pass; 1/16" or less is the ideal depth of cut.

5. Avoid tip-in. Never apply pressure to stock directly over the cutter head. This may result in tipping the board or your fingers into the cutter.

6. Position your stance to allow you to walk through with the board. Never stand flat-footed facing the fence.

7. Never pass your hands directly over the cutter head. When face jointing, use a push block in between your hand and the stock.

8. Always make sure that the exposed cutter head behind the fence is guarded, especially when you are jointing stock near the guard side of the cutter head.

9. Do not back your work out of the cut; keep going in the direction of the out feed table. Lifting your work off the blades is OK as long as you do it with good control. Do not let go or drop the board back into the blades.

10. If you are jointing long or heavy stock, make sure that you have help or use a stand to support the work.

11. Although the fence can be tilted, jointing of the stock at an angle could be difficult and cumbersome to hold. The use of push sticks and hold down devices is highly recommended. If possible, consider another machine for this operation if it cannot be done safely.

12. Before you walk away from the jointer make sure the machine is off & the blade has stopped.

13. Always run wood through the jointer with the grain in the same direction that you are cutting and never across the grain. Always examine the condition of the stock and evaluate the grain direction, warp, twist, burl, swirl, kink, and cup.

14. When straightening a cupped piece of stock, the feet should be down to the table with the concave side down & the humped side up. It may take several passes to get a smooth surface. Then you will need to straighten other side of the stock with the thickness planer.