

Miter Saw Safety Rules

The Miter Saw is a power tool used to make a quick, accurate crosscuts, miters or bevels. These saws cut at a set miter angle. Some also can cut at both miter and a beveled angle. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the MakeIt Labs Miter Saw. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Power Miter Saw Safety Rules:

1. Never alter a guard or use the tool with a guard missing. Be sure all guards are in place and working properly before each use.
2. Never force a blade onto an arbor or alter the size of an arbor. If your blade does not have the proper size and shape arbor hole for the arbor, do not use it!
3. Make sure the arbor and blade are both clean. Buildup on the surface of the arbor and blade will increase excessive friction.
4. Use sharp blades. Damaged or dull blades could throw teeth, causing a serious injury.
5. When installing or changing a blade, make sure the blade has adequate set (blade set provides clearance between the sides of the blade and the workpiece, thus minimizing the probability of binding). Match the direction of the arrow on the blade with the direction of the arrow on the tool casting to be sure of proper installation. The blade teeth at the bottom of the blade point down and toward the fence.
6. Be sure the arbor nut is tight to prevent slipping or loosening of the blade.
7. Set the saw securely on a flat, level surface. Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:
 1. A two foot perimeter around the miter saw should be kept clear of people, debris 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 & on the miter saw with a safe attitude!
2. Concentrate on what you are doing and be aware of kickback.
3. Always place the workpiece securely on the table & against the fence when making cuts.
4. Support long workpieces at the same height as the saw table.
5. Use clamps to secure the workpiece to the table and avoid injuries.
6. Never make freehand cuts. Holding the workpiece by hand is unstable and may lead to loss of control.
7. Never cut small pieces that would require you to put fingers within 3" of the cutting blade without a clamping device.
8. Never reach under the saw blade or perform "cross handed" operation.
9. When you start your saw, allow the blade to reach full speed before cutting; do not force the blade and always start the cut gently.
10. When using the Sliding Compound Miter Saw as in the MakeIt Labs shop, remember to pull the blade out and start saw and push down into the stock and towards fence to make the cut.
11. Don't raise the blade from the workpiece until the blade has come to a complete stop.
12. Never try to remove or clamp the workpiece to the saw while the blade is rotating.
13. Lock the miter saw in the down position when transporting.