

# Router Safety Rules

The widespread use of routers is based on their ability to perform an extensive range of smooth finishing and decorative cuts. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the MakeIt Labs Routers. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

## Router Safety Rules:

1. Always choose the correct tool and the proper accessory for your job.
2. Sharp bits must be handled with care. Never use dull or damaged bits that can snap during use. Dull bits tend to overload, causing possibility of bit breakage.
3. Never use bits that have a cutting diameter greater than the opening in the router base.
4. When changing a bit make sure that the router is unplugged from the power source.
5. Make certain that the bit shaft is engaged in the collet at least ½ inch.
6. Never bottom out the router bit, as this will damage the collet.
7. Always use the wrenches provided with the tool to make adjustments. Using the correct wrench enables a more secure grip on the tool and may prevent slipping.
8. If using a bit left in the machine, after changing the bit, or making any adjustments, make sure the collet nut and any other adjustment devices are securely tightened. Loose adjustment devices can unexpectedly shift causing loss of control; loose rotating components may be violently thrown.

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

1. A two foot perimeter around the router should be kept clear of people, debris that impair traction or footing to avoid slips.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection should be worn.
3. Use the appropriate mask or respirator in dusty

work conditions.

4. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, tie back long hair, and do not wear gloves.

5. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the MakeIt Labs Shop & on the router with a safe attitude!

2. Always inspect the router bit before each use and NEVER use a bit if the carbide is cracked or appears damaged in any way.

3. Make sure router is turned off before plugging it in.

4. Make sure the work surface is free from nails, knots, and other foreign objects.

5. Place the workpiece securely in a vise or other recommended clamping device. Holding the workpiece by hand is unstable and may lead to loss of control.

6. After turning on the router, wait until it has reached full speed before starting the cut.

7. Never start the tool when the bit is touching the workpiece. The bit may grab the workpiece and cause loss of control. Follow the tool manufacturer's procedure for setting the depth of cut. Tighten adjustment locks.

8. For maximum control, hold the router firmly with both hands. The reaction torque of the motor can cause the tool to twist.

9. Always feed the cut against the direction of rotation.

10. Feeding the tool in the wrong direction causes the cutting edge of the bit to climb out of the workpiece and pull the tool toward the operator.

11. Never touch the bit during or immediately after use. The bit is too hot to be touched with bare hands.

12. Never lay the tool down until the motor and bit have come to a complete standstill. The spinning bit can grab a surface and pull the tool out of your control.

13. Return the bit to the tool cabinet after use. Never throw bits into the bottom of a drawer.

The bits should be stored in a router bit holder.

This will keep them sharp.