

Router Table Safety Rules

Routers mounted in a table are used to create decorative surfaces on a workpiece. Most of us own a router and can have a more versatile machine if we procure a router table. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the MakeIt Labs Router Table. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Router Table Safety Rules:

1. Before working with the router mounted to a table make sure all guards are in place and working properly.
2. Always choose the correct tool and the proper accessory for your job.
3. Always keep bits sharp and clean of rust and pitch to avoid excessive friction.
4. When changing a bit, make sure that the machine is unplugged.
5. Always use the wrenches provided with the tool to make adjustments.
6. After changing the bit or making any adjustments, make sure the collet nut is securely tightened and that the unused portion of the bit is covered by the guard before tool use.
7. Before plugging in the router, make sure it is turned off.
8. Make the adjustments to the table and fence before turning on the router.
9. When making a freehand cut, use a starting pin and a bearing on the bit.

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

1. A two foot perimeter around the machines should be kept clear of people, debris that impair traction or footing to avoid slipping.
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 table with a safe attitude!
2. Follow the 3” rule; keep your hands and fingers 3” from the router bit.
3. Use a push block to keep your hands protected from the revolving bit.
4. Clamp a block of wood to the fence over the top of the bit to be the bit guard
5. Shaping narrow materials can be hazardous; always use feather boards or push blocks.
6. Maintain proper adjustments for infeed and outfeed fences.
7. Adjust the fence halves so the cutter opening is more than is required to clear the bit and lock the fence into position.
8. Take time to examine your workpiece and make sure that all necessary precautions have been taken before cutting. Always make sure the work surface is free from nails, knots, and other foreign objects.
9. Do not shape chipboard, panel board, or any stock that has paint or varnish on it.
10. Properly support long lengths of material. Use work supports or stands as needed.
11. Never feed the workpiece in the direction of cutting blade rotation. Otherwise, the cutter blade can grab and pull the workpiece.
12. Never trap the stock in between the fence and the bit.
13. Always use a miter gauge & clamp for “end shaping” to maintain safe control.
14. Always connect the dust collector to the exhaust port before use.
15. Keep the exhaust port pointed away from you. Don’t reach into the exhaust chute to unclog chips. Stop the tool and unplug it from the power source. After making sure the bit has stopped, clear the chute with something other than your bare hand.
16. Never reach under the table while the tool is running.