

When working with Power cutting tools, the risk of injury and the degree of injury can vary widely. The severity depends on the location of the injury (finger, hand or forearm). Also, the depth of the injury is important (skin only vs. deeper tissues such as tendons, nerves, arteries and bone). Qualities of the tool, tooth pattern, type and force of the saw can change the injury.

Anything that contacts the saw blade can be injured. [Nerve injuries](#) cause loss of feeling or loss of ability to control certain muscles. Circulation may be lost if the arteries are injured. Saws can also break bones. Sometimes you can lose part of the bone, which would lead to [amputation](#). Electric shocks and [burns](#) can also occur with the operation of powered cutting tools.

Follow all the safety instructions provided for your tool. Do not override safety guards; they are there for your protection.

- Never look away from your work.
- Never use your hands to clear the scraps from a sawing worktable. Instead, use a push stick.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry.
- Keep your finger off the trigger when carrying a portable power saw.
- Do not use the saw to perform a task for which it was not designed.
- Use the correct blade for the application. Set it for the correct depth to minimize the amount of exposed blade and reduce the potential for binding.
- Use sharp blades. Dull blades cause binding, stalling and possible kickback.
- Avoid cutting nails.
- Secure the workpiece to the table platform.
- When starting, let the saw reach full speed before cutting and support the work firmly so it will not shift.
- If the saw stalls, switch off the power and unplug the tool before trying to restart it.
- When working with metal, secure the metal materials with clamps or in a vise to keep it from moving.
- Check for proper blade guard operation before each cut.
- When starting or stopping the saw, make sure the work is not touching the blade.
- Keep a clear head, concentrate, and **DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL or USE DRUGS** before using this tool!

Stay alert watch what you are doing when operating a power tool! A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.