



## Safety Rules for Working on the premises.

### **ALWAYS BE CAREFUL! IF IN DOUBT ....ASK!**

Never push a sharp edged tool toward any part of your body without adequate protection. Use a work stop block when possible and take small cuts with any sharp tool. This is safer for you and the workplace.

If you have tools of your own, make sure they are sharp. A dull tool is dangerous. Learn how to use the sharpening stones.

In the event of you cutting yourself, there is a First Aid Box on the premises

Wear appropriate hand, eye, ear and lung protection when appropriate or when directed by a member of staff.

Do not use any machine you are not trained on and comfortable using. If at any time you are unsure of what you are doing, stop immediately and ask for help.

When using power tools (including hand power tools):

- No open-toed shoes or loose clothing
- Remove objects on hands and wrists
- Remove dangly necklaces, hair ornaments, and earrings
- Restrain long hair to prevent entanglement
- Use push sticks and blocks whenever possible

Do not leave machines running unattended.

All powered woodcutting and sanding tools must be run with dust collection or vacuum equipment connected to the appropriate ports.

Report any equipment that is not in good working order to staff immediately.

Clean your work space, and put all tools away when finished. Scrap wood should be placed in designated locations. Use vacuums or hand brushes to clean machinery.



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## GENERAL HEALTH and SAFETY ADVICE

Many exotic woods (Rosewood and Ebony especially) are very irritable and even toxic when inhaled. Employ a fan and/or dust collection system when using any power tool. Avoid breathing vapours from glue, solvents or anything with suspicious smells. Particularly dangerous are Abalone shell and Mother of Pearl. There is a condition known as *Shellfish Toxemia* that is induced by breathing the dust of shellfish. This is an incurable lung condition that can be fatal, so be careful if you decide to work with these materials. If you do, keep the material wet with oil or water to capture the dust!



Wear a good quality dust mask to protect your lungs. Many wood dusts are actually dangerous to breathe, and any dust is bad for your lung tissue...so wear a mask! Make sure it is of a good quality and not the cheap discount store paper variety! If you experience irritation in your nose, you can clean it with a nasal lavage. This is a saline solution - ½ teaspoon of salt dissolved in a cup of warm water. The solution is poured or sniffed up into the nose and expelled gently. It sounds drastic but is actually easy to get used to, and will relieve the irritation of wood dust. Wear a mask! Ideally do your sanding outside or in a doorway with a fan blowing the dust away. Dust collection systems are a good idea if there is space. Wear a mask in any case.



Do not use a power tool without understanding it's operation, capacity and liabilities. Use push sticks and blocks wherever possible. ALL tools are dangerous and power tools just take bigger bites! Sanders are the worst because they may seem safer than cutting tools, but the power sander will grind off patches of your skin very quickly, which take longer to heal than a cut. Wearing rubber-fingered work gloves can provide extra grip and prevent fingers slipping off dusty wood and into the tool.



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