



Society of Canadian Woodworkers Safety Guidelines

- A full face shield is required during the turning session, this can be used over glasses if needed.
- Gloves are not allowed.
- A dust mask or full dust extraction is used during sanding.
- Hearing protection is required if a table saw or jointer or other noisy equipment is used to prepare the wood blanks
- Use a smock to keep sawdust from getting into ones clothes, some wood can be a skin irritant
- Consider your work environment. Don't use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of inflammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.
- Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose that it was not designed for or intended for
- Turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base. Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Don't overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.
- Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars before turning on the lathe.
- Ensure the belt guard or cover is in place. Rotate your work piece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning the lathe on. Be certain that the work piece turns freely and is firmly mounted.
- Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
- When using a faceplate, be certain the work piece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum) Do not use dry wall or deck screws.
- Be aware of what turners call the "red zone" or "firing zone." This is the area directly behind and in front of the work piece, the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.
- Always **check the speed** of the lathe before turning it on. Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances.
- Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.
- Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations
- Note that, when running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.