

# Table Saw Safety

- In general, many injuries in the woodshop happen from not paying close attention to a repetitive task or from simple slips and falls.
- Don't raise the blade to its highest point when cutting thin strips. Rather raise the blade so the gullet is even with the top of the wood.
- You can get binding or kickback if your fence is out of alignment or if you have a dirty or dull saw blade. A riving knife helps prevent these things.
- Use a rip blade on your saw when ripping wood. Use a crosscut or combination blade when crosscutting wood. You can rip with a combination blade, but if you are cutting thick stock, the wood can significantly heat, causing burn marks.
- A band saw can be better than a table saw for handling very thick stock.
- Sweep up sawdust to prevent a slip hazard. Always have a clear floor surface to work with.
- Avoid handling a full sheet of plywood by yourself. It is heavy and awkward. It is better to cut down a full sheet with a circular saw on sawhorses than trying to maneuver the whole sheet on a table saw. Another alternative is to have the lumber yard make the first rough cut so that it is a more manageable size.
- Sharp tools are always safer than dull tools because with dull tools, you have to aggressively push harder, and that's where accidents can happen.
- You should be careful about long runs of repetitive cuts because you can become bored and lose focus and attention.
- Prevent distractions and interruptions, and don't work tired, which is another area where accidents can happen.