



Fablab Safety Rules

The rules and guidelines in this document apply to the entire fab lab area including the studios in the main house.

An important part of your experience in woodworking will be learning to follow practices and procedures that will prevent injuries to YOURSELF and OTHERS.

Develop a good attitude toward safety. This means that you have a strong feeling toward the importance of safety and are willing to give time and attention to learning the safest way to perform your work. It means that you will be certain to work carefully and follow the rules

Please note that experience in a Lab does not equal good safety awareness. Many accidents occur not to beginners but from experienced workers that feel more comfortable in the Lab and therefore become more casual in their approach to safety guidelines.

NEVER be afraid to ask a supervisor for help.

NEVER use a new machine without first asking for assistance from a supervisor.

Do not wear loose fitting clothing

Do not long sleeve shirts/sweatshirts

Do not wear neckties

No jewelry should be worn in the fabrication lab. (Including earrings, watches and rings)

Snug fitting clothing is essential to your safety

Make certain that long hair is not loose, but is pulled back away from equipment.

Always wear safety glasses when working with any lab equipment. Additional protection using goggles or face shields may be necessary for work such as grinding, chiseling or chipping.

Never work alone. There must always be at least two persons present in the

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Fabrication lab.

Always wear appropriate safety gear and protective clothing, including closed toed shoes.

Eye protection is required while operating any machine.

Know where the fire extinguishers are located and how to use them.

Know the hazards associated with your work. Be sure you are fully educated on the proper use and operation of any tool before beginning a job. If you cannot do a job safely in the fabrication lab, don't do it.

If you are unsure about how to safely execute the operation of a tool, ask for help. Have the fabrication lab supervisors assist, demonstrate, and observe to help you become familiar and comfortable.

If you have not worked with a specific material before, consult the fabrication lab supervisor for precautions, methods and instruction prior to beginning work.

Do not work in the lab if you are in a hurry, this almost always ruins the work and often results in injury.

Before starting any machine be sure to check that it is set up correctly and fully operational.

Check power cords and plugs on portable tools before using them.

Use gloves or special tool for the removal of chips, shavings and debris. Do not use your hands to clean shavings or cuttings – they can be sharp!

When doing heavy sanding face masks or respirators should always be worn. Keep your fingers clear from the point of operation of machines by using special tools and devices such as push sticks and paddles. Never use a rag near moving machinery.

Keep the work area free from debris, clean spills immediately and remove all sawdust and wood chips. Do not bring food or drink in to the fabricationlab.

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Clean up after yourself. Before you leave the lab be sure all tools are returned to their appropriate position and all the machines are clean and the floor is swept.

Avoid earphones, cell phone use and texting. We need to be able to get your attention and you need to hear what's going on around you. Cell phone use and texting are distractions. Simply go elsewhere to use your phone

Power tools can be extremely dangerous if they are used improperly. Common accidents associated with power tools include abrasions, cuts, lacerations, amputations, burns, electrocution, and broken bones. These accidents are often caused by the following:

Touching the cutting, drilling, or grinding components

Getting caught in moving parts

Suffering electrical shock due to improper grounding, equipment defects, or operator misuse

Being struck by particles that normally eject during operation

Touching hot tools or workpieces

Falling in the work area

Being struck by falling tools

When working around power tools, you must wear personal protective equipment and avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that could catch in moving machinery. In addition to general lab guidelines, follow these guidelines for working with power tools:

Use the correct tool for the job. Do not use a tool or an attachment for something it was not designed to do.

Select the correct bit, blade, cutter, or grinder wheel for the material at hand. This precaution will reduce the chance for an accident and improve the quality of your work.

Keep all guards in place. Cover exposed belts, pulleys, gears, and shafts

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that could cause injury.

Always operate tools at the correct speed for the job at hand. Working too slowly can cause an accident just as easily as working too fast.

Watch your work when operating power tools. Stop working if something distracts you.

Do not rely on strength to perform an operation. The correct tool, blade, and method should not require excessive force. If undue force is necessary, you may be using the wrong tool or have a dull blade.

Before clearing jams or blockages on power tools, disconnect from power source. Do not use your hand to clear jams or blockages, use an appropriate tool.

Never reach over equipment while it is running.

Never disable or tamper with safety releases or other automatic switches.

When the chance for operator injury is great, use a push stick to move material through a machine.

Disconnect power tools before performing maintenance or changing components.

Keep a firm grip on portable power tools. These tools tend to "get away" from operators and can be difficult to control.

Do not operate power tools when you are sick, fatigued, or taking strong medication.

Make sure all guards and safety devices are in place and in perfect operating order

Do not use a machine without the proper guards.

Know the physics of the machine and where the cutting force wants to throw the material

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When feeding material through a machine with the hands, be aware of the direction you are pushing (away from blade or cutter).

Never clean a machine while it is running.

Never make an adjustment unless the power is off. The tool must come to a complete stop.

If something doesn't sound right, or feel right - turn off the machine and inform the supervisor or monitor.

Above all, think before you perform any task. Know the tool's capabilities and the work it is intended for.

If you feel unsure, STOP and ask for assistance

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