

Miter and Table Saws: Verify the Cutting Station

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Why this matters

A shared cutting station can change machines, stock and users during a shift. Identify the saw and operation first: miter-saw and table-saw safeguards and movements are not interchangeable.

Objective: Verify the machine-specific guard, stock-control and hand-clearance arrangement before cutting.

Key hazards or failure points

Blade contact; kicked-back stock; short-piece handling; coasting blade; unstable stand; incorrect guide; dust; workers crossing stock paths.

Practical controls

- Stabilize the station and support long stock. Separate access from stock, blade and offcut paths. Use compatible blades and the specified eye, hearing, dust and electrical controls.
- Miter saw: secure stock against the support/fence as instructed, keep the blade guard functioning and hands outside the model's exclusion zone. Follow its specified sliding-cut sequence; do not improvise a stroke.
- Table saw: select the permitted rip or crosscut setup. Verify required guarding, spreader/riving-knife and anti-kickback arrangements for that machine and operation. Use the specified guide and push aid; do not make freehand cuts.

Verify It in the Field

With power in the prescribed safe state, match saw, blade and intended cut to instructions. Inspect guard movement, mounting, adjustments and the actual stock-control arrangement.

Trace hand positions and stock travel with the blade stopped. Confirm supports and fixtures permit the whole cut without reaching across the blade or into an ejection path. Reject pieces that cannot be controlled safely.

Confirm the stop control is accessible and dust collection works as specified. Record machine, operation, safeguards, support, checker and time; recheck when users change the setup.

Stop and reassess

Stop for binding, kickback, failed guarding, unstable stock, lost dust control or an unsafe reach. Wait for stopped motion. Establish the required disconnected or isolated state before clearing jams, changing blades or entering hazardous areas. Recheck before use.

Ask the crew

1. Which saw and operation are we briefing?
2. What controls the stock throughout this cut?
3. When may someone retrieve the offcut?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.304; OSHA miter/table-saw eTools; actual model instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/miter-table-saw-station-safety