

Planer Safety

The Thickness planer is similar to a jointer in that it removes material from the surface of a board. It can be distinguished from a jointer as the cutter head is mounted above the feed table, which is shorter and wider compared to a jointer. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the planer. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Planer Safety Rules:

1. Follow the 3" rule for your hands & fingers at the opening of the infeed and outfeed tables.
2. Stand to the side of the machine to avoid kickback or shattering of the wood from the planer that can occur even with feed roller pressure.
3. Place boards on the bed of the machine so your fingers do not get pinched.
4. Do not wear gloves while operating the machine.
5. Only plane clear boards or boards with solid knots to avoid kickback.
6. The shortest board should be the distance between the infeed and outfeed roller, plus 2 inches (12" for the Planer).

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A minimum of a two foot perimeter in the back and front of the planer should be kept clear of people, due to possible kickback that could be thrown out of the machine.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection must be worn.
3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
4. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the shop and on the planer with a safe attitude!
2. Always check the wood before planing for foreign material in the wood.
3. Unplug the machine to make any adjustments of the machine other than the depth of the cut and the rate of feed.
4. Depth of the cut should be set before each pass of feeding the stock into the machine.
5. Our thickness planer is dual speed and for best results, the slower the rate of feed, the smoother the cut.
6. Keep all guards and covers on the machine when running the machine.
7. Always connect the dust collector to the planer and use it.
8. A typical pass should remove no more than 1/8" of material for soft wood. 1/16" is the recommended rate per pass for hardwood.
9. When planing thin stock 3/8" or thinner, you must use a backer board.
10. Each complete revolution of the hand wheel moves the table 1/8". Only rotate the hand wheel $\frac{1}{2}$ of a turn per pass for the 1/16" recommended removal.
11. Wood that is warped, cupped, twisted or bowed will cause inconsistent contact with the blades of the planer. Joint the concave surface first before running it through the planer.
12. When running short stock, always butt the ends of the boards against one another as they are fed into the planer.
13. If the board is thicker on one end than the other and jams in the machine, do not shut off the machine. Slowly crank open the height adjustment wheel until the board resumes feeding through the planer.
14. The planer is self feeding.