

Jointer-Planer Safety

Second to circular saws, hand-feed jointers or surface planers are the most dangerous woodworking machines. Most injuries are caused by the hands and fingers of the operator coming in contact with the blades of the machine. In particular, many of these accidents occur when short lengths of stock are being used.

Pre-Operation

- 1 Safety glasses with side shields or safety goggles must be worn. If a face shield is worn, eye protection must be worn underneath.
- 2 The knives of the cutter head must not extend beyond the body of the head more than 3.2 mm.
- 3 The cutterhead on the left side should be guarded with a spring loaded, self-closing guard that adjusts to the size of the stock. This guard should only be removed when rabbeting. Ensure the guard behind the fence is also in place.
- 4 Lock the fence into position before using the jointer.

Operation

- 1 Use a hold-down push block whenever the wood is narrower than 7.6 cm.
- 2 The operator should never place hands over the front or back edges where they can easily come into contact with the head. Hands should be kept as high as possible on the side of the stock.
- 3 Stock that has loose knots, splits, structural defects, metal or stone in it should never be jointed.
- 4 Check the width, thickness and length of stock before jointing it.
 - Stock less than 300 mm long should not be jointed
 - Stock that is less than 20 mm high should not be edge-jointed

- Do not face stock that is less than 12 mm thick. Always use a push block for thin material
- 5 Allow the cutterhead to come to full speed before using the jointer.
- 6 Stand to one side of the machine, not directly in front of the jointer.
- 7 Do not leave the jointer until the cutterhead has come to a complete stop.
- 8 Return the depth of cut to 1 mm when you are finished with the jointer.
You, or the next operator, could be seriously injured if the jointer is set for a deep cut as kickbacks occur when the depth of the cut is deep.
- 9 Clean up the work area

Jointer Safety Rules

Jointers are machines used to prepare stock for making joints and smoothing the edge or surface of stock. They have high speed rotating knives that remove material as it is pushed past the rotating jointer knives.

To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the KCWG Jointer. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Jointer Safety Rules from Mark Adams:

1. Keep cuts to less than 1/16".
2. Do not joint stock less than 12" in length.
3. Do not joint stock narrower than 3" without a push stick.
4. Do not surface stock wider than the blades are long.
5. Do not joint stock thinner than 5/8".
6. Never put your hands over the cutter area.
7. Always feed toward the out feed table.
8. Never operate the jointer without guards.
9. Use the left hand to hold down; use the right hand for pushing stock.

10. Never use your thumb as a push stick.
11. Walk with the board through the cut on long boards.

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

1. A perimeter around the jointer should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection should 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 KCWG Shop and on the jointer with a safe attitude!
2. While machine is off and stopped, make all adjustments, see that all adjusting handles are tight & locked, and check fence for square.
3. Move the fence to different positions over the cutter head to avoid dulling the blades.
4. Avoid cuts deeper than 1/8" per pass; 1/16" or less is the ideal depth of cut.
5. Avoid tip-in. Never apply pressure to stock directly over the cutter head. This may result in tipping the board or your fingers into the cutter.
6. Position your stance to allow you to walk through with the board. Never stand flat-footed facing the fence.
7. Never pass your hands directly over the cutter head. When face jointing, use a push block in between your hand and the stock.
8. Always make sure that the exposed cutter head behind the fence is guarded, especially when you are jointing stock near the guard side of the cutter head.
9. Do not back your work out of the cut; keep going in the direction of the out feed table. Lifting your work off the blades is OK as long as you do it with good control. Do not let go or drop the board back into the blades.
10. If you are jointing long or heavy stock, make sure that you have help or use a stand to support the work.

11. Although the fence can be tilted, jointing of the stock at an angle could be difficult and cumbersome to hold. The use of push sticks and hold down devices is highly recommended. If possible, consider another machine for this operation if it cannot be done safely.

12. Before you walk away from the jointer make sure the machine is off & the blade has stopped.

13. Always run wood through the jointer with the grain in the same direction that you are cutting and never across the grain. Always examine the condition of the stock and evaluate the grain direction, warp, twist, burl, swirl, kink, and cup.

14. When straightening a cupped piece of stock, the feet should be down to the table with the concave side down & the humped side up. It may take several passes to get a smooth surface. Then you will need to straighten other side of the stock with the thickness planer

Safety Rules

General Safety

1. Safety should be considered before starting any operation.
2. Do not run in the lab.
3. Eye protection must be worn when working in the lab.
4. Do not use your hands to clear away scraps - always use a broom or hand broom.
5. No rowdy behavior in the lab.
6. Do not talk to a fellow student when he/she is operating a machine.
7. If you get injured in any way let the instructor know.
8. Keep projects and other objects out of the aisle.
9. When carrying a long piece of material, have a person on each end.
10. Do not attempt to lift an object that is too heavy.
11. Long sleeves should be rolled above the elbows.
12. Loose clothing should never be worn when operating a machine.
13. Bracelets and other loose jewelry should not be worn.

Jointer Safety Rules

1. The guard must be over the knives at all times.
2. Never joint stock that has less than ten inches (10") of surface in contact with the table.
3. Use a push stick when jointing an edge if the stock is narrower than the height of the fence.
4. Strips less than one inch (1") wide or high should not be edge jointed without a special holding device and permission from the instructor.
5. Run the concave edge of the board across the jointer when edge jointing.
6. Never take a cut deeper than 1/16".
7. Never change the out feed table
8. Never let fingers come closer than four inches (4") to the knives.
9. Do not hook your thumb over the end of the board in order to feed it across the jointer.