


Planer Safety Rules for Woodworking and Your Woodshop

-  Never Plane stock that has loose knots.
- Never plane lumber that is coated with a finish, such a lacquer or paint. Also, never plane lumber that has screws, nails, staples, etc. attached. A good "rule of thumb" is to never plane used lumber.
- Never plane lumber unless it has at least one flat surface. If it doesn't, a jointer should be used to true the surface.
- Always feed lumber into the planer so that the cutting will be done with the grain of the wood.
- The wood stock should be at least 2" longer than the distance between the infeed and the outfeed rolls. That distance will depend upon the size and make of your planer.
- Never plane more than 1/16" for each cut. Set the desired thickness to be cut by turning the elevating handwheel. Tighten the handwheel lock before inserting lumber into the planer. Repeat this process for each cut, until the desired lumber thickness is achieved.
- Never look into the planer while the power is on.
- Always stand to one side of the lumber while it is being feed through the planer.
- If a board gets stuck in the planer, stop the machine immediately. Once the planer has come to complete stop, lower the bed and use another piece of lumber to push the stuck piece through.
- When finished using the planer, turn off the power and pull on the brake until the feed rolls and cutter head has stopped rotating.

Planer Safety Rules

1. Adjust the machine to the correct thickness of the cut before turning on the power.
2. NEVER plane more than a 1/8" of wood at a time.
3. Stock should be at least 12" long, if you're not sure, contact the teacher.
4. Plane with the grain. NEVER attempt to plane across the grain.
5. Surface only new dry lumber that is free of loose knots and serious defects.
6. Stand to one side of the work being fed through the machine.
7. DO NOT LOOK into the throat of the planer while it is running.
8. Handle and hold stock only in an area beyond the ends of the table.
9. If the machine is not working or sounding proper, shut off the power at once and inform the teacher.
10. If need be, an operator can work with a partner to help catch the work on the outfeed table.

Thickness Planer Safety Rules

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 KCWG Planer. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Planer Safety Rules from Mark Adams:

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 KCWG 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 KCWG 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 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.

Thickness Planer Safety

Pre-Operation

- 1 Safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields must be worn.
- 2 If the planer does not have a soundproof enclosure around it, provide hearing protection for all persons that will be working in the vicinity.
- 3 The cutter heads of the planer should be completely enclosed with solid metal guards. Ensure that these are in place prior to operation.
- 4 Thickness- The thickness of the lumber should be examined before you plane it. Lumber less than 10 mm can be planed by:
 - Ensure that an instructor is supervising.
 - Place the thin board on top of a thicker board (at least 19 mm thick) and run both boards through the planer together.
 - Stock that is thicker at one end than the other should be planed by inserting the thicker end into the planer first.
- 5 Length
 - Lumber less than 50 mm longer between the distance of the infeed and the outfeed cannot be safely planed as it may jam the machine.

- Lumber that is quite long must have adequate space at the outfeed end of the planer. The planer should not be too close to a wall.
- Be careful when planing short stock. Infeed rollers will sometimes cause short stock to quickly tilt up and then down. This can cause a pinch point for fingers between the table and the stock.

6 Width

Examine the width of the lumber. Most planers remove a maximum of 3 mm per pass. If a narrow piece of lumber is being planed, the maximum amount may be removed. A piece that is at the maximum width of the planer may cause the motor to overheat and the cutter to stall. If the motor does stall, follow lock out procedure (turn off the power switch) and lower the table prior to restarting the machine.

- 7 Check the board for loose knots, nails, staples, dirt, sand or other foreign objects that could come free during the planing process, harming you or the machine.
- 8 Lumber that does not have square ends cannot be planed as the ends can catch on the pressure bar and jam.
- 9 Ensure that the dust removal equipment is working properly before starting the planer.
- 10 To prevent other people from getting struck by long, fast moving boards, fence or mark off the space at the outrunning end.
- 11 Lumber that has a varnish or finish on it should not be planed, as the dust created may be harmful to your health. Also the painted or varnished finish will quickly dull the machine's knives.
- 12 Prior to starting the machine, lower the table and remove any wood shavings, loose knots and slivers of wood from the table and roller assembly.

Operation

- 1 Wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields.
- 2 Stand to one side when using the planer.
- 3 Do not allow the stock to feed through your hands when the machine self feeds. This will prevent any splinters being forced into your skin at the same rate the planer is planing the wood.
- 4 Operators should stop and lockout the feeder rolls, cutter heads and cylinders in accordance with TRU's [Lockout Procedure](#) before placing their hands in the bed plate to remove wood fragments, to make adjustments or for any other reason.
- 5 Wood chips and knots are frequently thrown out of the planer, therefore operators should not look into the planer to watch the operation.
- 6 Other persons should not work or walk directly behind the feeding end of the planer. A barrier or guardrail should be used when the machine is running to prevent this from occurring.
- 7 When removing lumber from the outfeed of the planer, never come between the end of a long plank and an immovable object such as a wall.