

Safe Operating Procedure

Docking saw

Activity description

Covers all manually operated docking saws.

Potential hazards and safety controls

Hazard	Control
Eye injuries	Wear safety glasses while using or standing near saw.
Hand injuries	Always keep hands well clear of the blade, hold the longest end of the piece where possible, and never cross your arms while cutting. Push material hard up against the fence while cutting. Always stand to one side of saw (not in front of blade). Maintain a correct stance and cut with even motion – do not jerk the saw. Do not attempt to cut wedges, angles or rip lengthwise on a straight crosscut saw.
Back injuries	Use good lifting practices when handling timber. Move your feet when turning to avoid twisting your body, especially when holding and stacking timber.
Noise	Wear hearing protection when using or standing near the saw.

Pre-start checks

Check that:

- saw blade is in good condition and electrical leads are not faulty,
- extraction dust collection box is empty,
- guards are in place and adjusted,
- saw pulls forward and retracts smoothly,
- saw starts up and runs normally, without any unusual noises or vibrations,
- stop button is working properly.

Operational procedure

1. Turn on saw and listen for any unusual noises or vibrations.
2. Put timber in position; push it hard against the fence with free hand, well clear of the blade; and stand to one side of the saw with feet positioned to give comfortable balance.
3. Pull the saw forward with the other hand, allowing the blade to cut smoothly without labouring, and then push it fully back behind the fence.
4. Push the offcut away from the blade with the longer length, and then remove both pieces from the bench.