

# >> TOOLBOX TALK - Circular Saws

A circular saw is a power saw that uses a toothed or abrasive blade that spins on an axis to cut material. Like any other power tool, a circular saw can lead to injuries or fatalities if not properly used.



## Identify Controls

It's important to follow these safety tips when using circular saws:

- Always wear eye protection. Chips from material can fly into your face, or the blade can break. Hearing protection may also be required, depending on your length of exposure.
- Avoid loose clothing, jewelry and anything that could get caught in the saw. Tie back long hair.
- Use both hands on the saw and make sure you are in full control of it. Avoid cutting above shoulder height.
- Always make sure you are using the proper blade for the material you are cutting.
- Make sure the work piece is secure before cutting. Never hold a work piece in your hand or across your lap.
- Don't overreach. Keep a stable footing.
- Double-insulated saws do not require a three-wire grounding cord and the user is protected in the event of an electrical short.
- Always unplug the tool before changing blades.
- Beware of kickback when using a circular saw, which is when the blade becomes pinched and the saw lifts up out of the work piece and toward the user. To prevent kickback, make sure the blade is sharp and clean; do not let it overheat; support large panels so they will not pinch the blade; beware of knots or sap in the wood and never remove the blade from the material while it is cutting. Release the switch immediately if the saw stalls or binds.
- Always make sure the cord is out of the way and not in the line of the cut.
- Do not leave plugged-in tools unattended.
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

## Demonstrate and Discuss

Some of the controls identified are similar for other power tools. Identify the various types of power tools that are used in your company and discuss how their safe handling can be improved.

**Complete and attach Toolbox Talk Meeting Form and process as per company policy.**



## TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ No. in Crew: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Last Meeting:

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	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
<b>Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):</b>	
<b>Suggestions Offered:</b>	
<b>Action(s) to be Taken:</b>	
<b>Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:</b>	

Supervisor's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_