

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

HAND SAWS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Saws are made in various shapes and sizes and for many uses. Use the correct saw for the job.

1. Wear safety glasses or a face shield.
2. Select a saw of proper shape and size for the stock being used.
3. Choose a saw handle that keeps your wrist in a natural position in the horizontal plane.
4. Choose a saw with a handle opening of at least 12 cm (5 in) long and 6 cm (2.5 in) wide and slanted at a 15° angle.
5. Check the stock being cut for nails, knots and other objects that may damage or buckle a saw.
6. Start cut carefully and slowly to prevent blade from jumping. Pull upward until blade bites. Start with partial cut, and then set saw at proper angle.
7. Apply pressure on the downstroke only.
8. Hold stock being cut firmly in place.
9. Use a helper, supporting bench or a vise to support long stock if required.
10. Keep teeth and blades properly set.
11. Protect teeth of saw when not in use.
12. Keep saw blades clean.