Circular Saw Rules & Safety

If you suspect the tool is not operating properly, contact mw-handtools@mit.edu

Additional Safety Equipment
- Hearing protection

Hazards
- Work can be EJECTED forward from the cut.
- Blades that catch can cause KICKBACK.
- Blades present a serious CUT HAZARD.

Dos
- Do practice proper workholding. Support large pieces.
- Do confirm that the blade guard retracts and spring backs properly before each use.
- Do set the blade depth before your cut. Rule of thumb: no more than one tooth should be exposed below the cut.
- Do use two hands to control the tool at all times.
- Do check that the areas in front of you and underneath the cut are clear before cutting.
- Do check the workpiece for fasteners or other obstructions.
- Do use a fence when possible.

Don’ts
- Don’t stand directly behind the tool.
- Don't cut any material other than wood.
- Don’t use any object to hold the blade guard open.
- Don’t make rip cuts (with the grain of wood).