

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

WOOD LATHE

The wood lathe is used to turn stock into round objects by securing the stock between two centers. The stock rapidly rotates while the operator applies a single-point tool to the wood.

Due to its unique operation, there are several safety concerns that should be addressed.

- The tool may become caught between the stock and the rotating parts of the machine, entangling the operator's hands.
- Jewelry, loose clothing and hair may become caught on the rotating parts.
- Pieces of stock can become projectiles if they are not secured properly or if they have splits or knots.

To address these concerns, all students should be trained and tested prior to utilizing the lathe. Training should include operation, safety work procedures and personal protective measures.

Safe Work Procedures:

- Ensure the lathe is covered with a guard to protect the operator against loose or thrown pieces.
- Step out of the "firing zone" before turning the lathe on. The firing zone is the area directly behind and in front of the work piece.
- A 3-foot perimeter around the lathe should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that might impair traction and footing. This area should be defined by a painted line or safety tape.
- Ensure the tool rest is secure and close to the stock (within approximately 1/8"). Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- Rotate the stock by hand to ensure it clears the tool rest before turning on the lathe.
- Wood pieces should be free of any splits or knots.



- Make sure the chuck is secured before turning on the lathe.
- Always start a piece at a slower speed until the work piece is balanced.
- Wear safety glasses with side shields and a full-face shield when using the lathe. A dust mask must be worn while sanding.
- Do not wear gloves or loose clothing, and long hair should be tied back.

These few simple reminders can help reduce the chance of an injury in your classroom.

Questions? Contact PACE Risk Management at riskmanagement@sdao.com.