

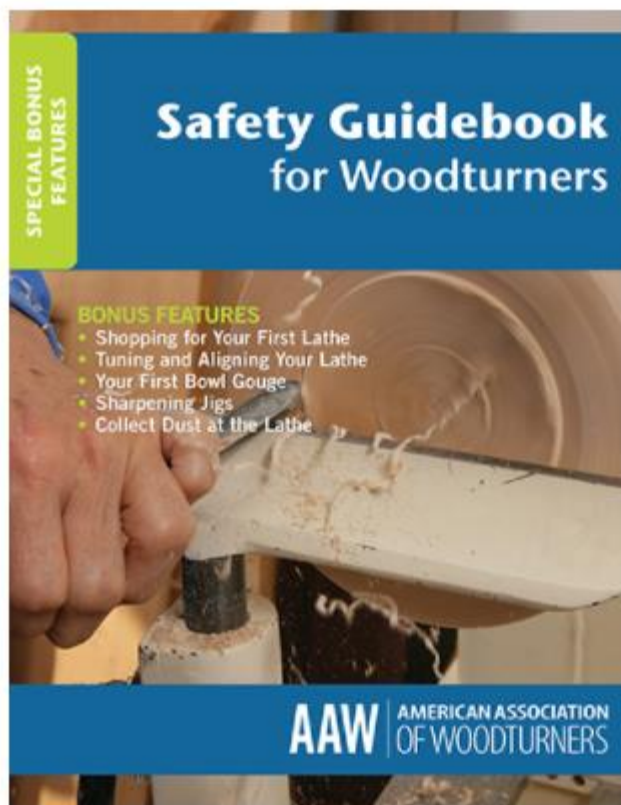
Old Country Guild of Woodturning

Woodturning Safety

Kevin Barb 9/9/20

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY

- An accident at the lathe can happen with blinding suddenness
- Respiratory and other problems can build over years.
- Take appropriate precautions when you turn. Following them will help you continue to enjoy woodturning.
- Safety guidelines are published online at <https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Learn/Learn-about-woodturning/Learn-about-woodturning-safety/Woodturner/Resources/Safety-Materials/Safety.aspx>

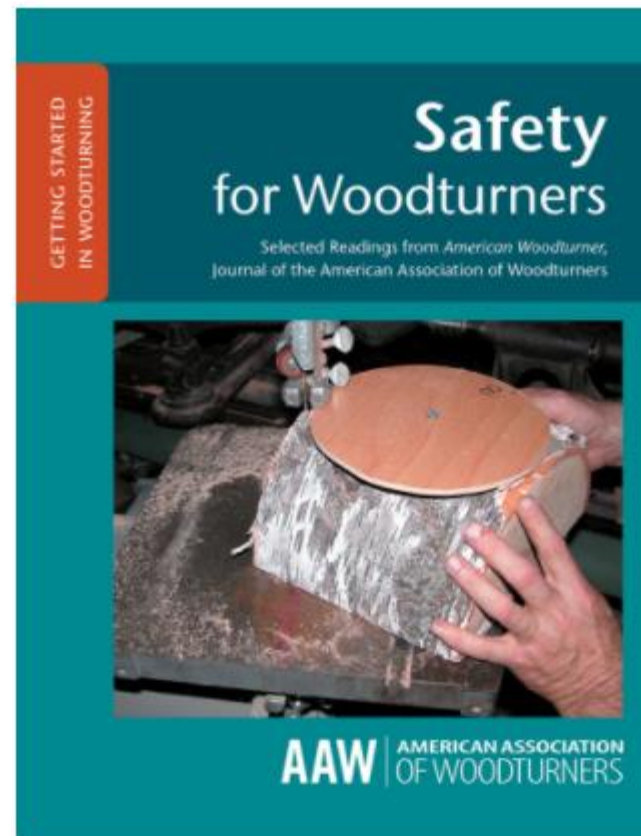


Safety Guidebook for Woodturners

Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures. To avoid injury and make your turning experience as satisfying as possible, the AAW has prepared this complimentary booklet to help you understand and use safe practices.

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FREE



Safety for Woodturners

A 64-page printed book. Build strong skills at the lathe while helping you learn best woodturning practices.

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Members Only

Safety is YOUR responsibility.

- Use a full face shield when ever the lath is turned on.
- Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, and avoid loose clothing objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories.
- Always check the speed of the lathe before turning it on. Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the work pieces is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always top the machine to check the reason.
- Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
- Position the tool rest close to work, almost touching the wood. Check tool rest position often and as wood is removed, turn off the lathe and re-position the rest.
- Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe “on.” Be certain that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. A handwheel on the outboard side of the headstock simplifies this process of spinning the lathe by hand before turning on the switch.
- Be aware of the turners call the “red zone” or “firing zone.” This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece - the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to stop out of this zone when switching the lathe to the “on” position. When observing others turn stay out of the area.
- Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest, holding the tool in a controlled and comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
- It is safest to turn the lathe “off” before adjusting the toolrest or tool rest base (banjo).
- Remove the tool rest before sanding or polishing operations.
- Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn the power off. Don’t leave that lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

Checklist: Before turning on the lathe

- Face shield on
- Blank properly mounted between centers: drive center point engaged in the end-grain
- Tailstock base firmly locked
- Tailstock ram not extended too far out, and live center pressed into the endgrain
- Tailstock ram locked
- Tool rest base locked firmly in position
- Tool rest set at proper height and distance from the wood to avoid contact
- Stand out of the “firing line”
- What is missing???

The Workshop and Turning Environment

General Considerations

- Floor Mats
- Lighting
- Extension Cords

Lathe and Turning Equipment

- Spindle Height
- Saws
- Grinders

Personal Protection Equipment

- Eye and Face Protection
- Respiratory and Skin Protection
- Hearing Protection

Blanks and Turning Materials

Safe Techniques

Safe Turning Speeds

Before Turning on the Lathe – a Checklist

First Cuts: ABC's (Anchor, Bevel, Cut)

How to Be Prepared by Dennis Belcher

- You've read about safety and you've adopted safe practices in your workshop. You're collecting the dust, wearing your faceshield, keeping your head out of the danger zone, and avoiding cowboy stunts with large, irregular, and cracked chunks of wood. But by the very nature of what we do, accidents will happen.
- Here's a quiz that's designed to prepare you in advance, first by making you aware of some less-obvious things you can do to reduce your risks, and second, by increasing your awareness of what needs to happen after an accident occurs.
- The challenge to you is to make a copy of the quiz, take it to your workshop, and complete each question. Take corrective action on those items you realize need to be improved. Bad habits can be changed, but only if we stop to consider the things we do that may be unsafe, and strengthen the safety practices we've learned.

- The nearest phone to use in an emergency is _____.
- Nearest hospital approved by my insurance carrier is _____.
- Nearest prompt-care facility approved by my insurance carrier is _____.
- I summon an ambulance by calling _____.
- If I need help in the shop from my spouse or neighbor, I call _____.
- My shop fire extinguisher is located _____.
- The charge of my fire extinguisher was last checked on _____.
- I regard my dust collection system as inadequate adequate good superb.
- I consistently wear hearing protection in my shop yes no.
- The electrical service/supply in my shop is inadequate adequate.
- My plan if I develop an allergic reaction to a wood species is _____.
- I have a faceshield yes no.
- I wear a faceshield or safety glasses/goggles when I turn never sometimes always.
- I wear a dust mask or dust helmet when I turn yes no.
- I have reviewed the near-accidents I have experienced on each machine that I own yes no.

- I consistently use properly sized tools for each project. Large tools for larger pieces, small tools for small projects never sometimes always.
- I know and stay out of the “line of fire” for my lathe yes no.
- I sit outside the line of fire when watching a demonstration yes no.
- I have a safety stop for my lathe that is out of the line of fire yes no.
- I use the tailstock when roughing out never sometimes always.
- I use the tailstock when turning out-of- round pieces never sometimes always.
- The tool in my shop that I most need to improve/change/review my work habits from a safety standpoint is _____.
- I use a safety shield to protect spectators when doing a demonstration yes no.
- I clean and organize my shop regularly yes no.
- The woodturning tool that I am most afraid of is _____.
- I need to change my use of _____to improve safe work habits.
- My body clock makes _____the most dangerous time of the day to work with power tools.
- The one thing that I should do to improve the safety of my shop is _____.