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Safety …it’s **YOUR** responsibility

 • Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors. Use a full face shield for bowl, vessel, or any turning involving chucks and faceplates.

 • Fine particles from a grinder and wood dust are harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask, air filtration helmet, proper ventilation, dust collection system, or a combination of these to deal with this serious issue. Be especially mindful of dust from many exotic woods, spalted woods, or any wood from which you notice a skin or respiratory reaction. Sanding is allowed only at lathes with active dust collection turned on.

 • Wear hearing protection during extended periods of turning.

 • Turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest or tool rest base, i.e., banjo.

 • Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches, and knockout bars. Form a habit of checking for these before turning on the lathe.

 • Tie back long hair; do not wear gloves; and avoid loose clothing, jewelry, or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories. Don't wear flip flops or open toe shoes.

 • When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use dry wall or deck screws.

 • Be aware of the First Aid Kit and the nearest Urgent Care Facility. Make sure the name and phone number for your emergency contact information is on the sign in sheet.

 • Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.

 • Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the tool rest and bed before turning the lathe on. Be certain that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted.

 • Be aware of the “line of fire”. 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. When observing someone else turn, stay out of this zone.

 • 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 workpiece is balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed.

 • Exercise extra caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark pockets, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances. Beginners should avoid these types of stock until they have greater knowledge of working such wood. Mainly stay out of the Line of Fire!

 • Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest, holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.

 • Note that, when running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened or locked on the lathe spindle.

 • Know your capabilities and limitations. An experienced woodturner is capable of lathe speeds, techniques, and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.

 • Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations.

 • Don’t overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.

 • Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts, and other conditions that may affect its operation.

 • Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don’t force a dull tool. Don’t use a tool for a purpose that it was not designed for or intended for.

 • Consider your work environment. Don’t use a lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases, and always keep a fully-charged fire extinguisher close at hand. Keep your work area well lit.

 • Stay alert. Watch what you are doing. Pay close attention to unusual sounds or vibrations. Stop the lathe to investigate the cause. Don’t operate machines when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

 • Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.

 • Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don’t leave lathe until it comes to a complete stop.