



Melville Woodturners

Safety Briefing

Stay Safe. Turn Smart.

Key Summary – Mandatory & Recommended

- **MANDATORY**

- Two persons present and within proximity when machinery is operated.
- You must be competent in using machinery/equipment either through attending skills courses (ie Introductory Woodturning course) or being accredited in the machine use e.g Bandsaw.
- Face shield when using lathes with woodturning tools ie chisels, scrapers
- Safety glasses, dust masks, sturdy footwear etc as prescribed during accreditation or skill development

- **Recommended**

- In all other operations we have a set of recommendations which are either noted at accreditation stage or skills development stage eg: by way of signs or with documentation or verbal instructions

- **Follow S.T.O.P. principle before any activity on premises.**

Knowledge / Training - Mandatory

- You MUST NOT use any lathe in the workshop unless you have been trained, or are operating under supervision of an experienced turner
- You MUST be accredited to use ANY electrical equipment in the shed
- There MUST be at least 2 people in the workshop if any machine is being operated
- There MUST be at least 2 people in the shed if any machine is being operated

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Mandatory

- Safety glasses or full face shield, or both, as appropriate to the task.
- Sturdy Footwear

Recommended

- Hearing protection for loud or prolonged machine use
- Dust mask or respirator when sanding or using exotic woods
- No loose clothing, jewellery, watch or untied long hair

Material Awareness

- Check timber for cracks, knots, nails, or defects
 - Super glue is suitable for fixing defects such as hairline cracks
 - Epoxy glue is suitable for slightly wider cracks
- Be aware of toxic or allergenic wood species
- Handle and use exotic timbers with appropriate care
- One reference source is : <https://www.wsqld.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Toxic-Timbers-V5.pdf>

Machine Safety

- Inspect lathe before use for damage or loose parts
- Turn lathe speed to zero. Wear a faceshield **before** starting the lathe
- Secure workpiece firmly before starting. Always use tailstock support where feasible. If using a spigot, ensure it is sized appropriately for the size of the workpiece, the grain direction and the jaws of the chuck.
- Ensure chuck, tool rest, tailstock etc are tightened securely and correctly positioned eg: toolrest height and gap to work piece
- Test there are no obstructions by turning work by hand first
- Once satisfied, turn on lathe and slowly increase to correct speed for workpiece size and balance

Safe Work Practices

- Stand to the side when starting the lathe
- Keep tools sharp and use correct technique, and correct tools
- Understand the difference between side and end grain, and the right tool to use. For example, a spindle roughing gouge must never be used where end grain is presented to the chisel such as turning side grain bowl
- Never leave the lathe running unattended
- Keep floor and workspace clear of shavings and cords

Emergency Procedures

- Know where the lathe emergency stop is located. If the control box is magnetized, position it for easy access
- Know where the workshop emergency stop is located
- Know where the first aid kit and fire extinguisher are located
- Report all accidents or near misses
 - Incident Report book is located in the workshop kitchen island bench

Final Reminder

- **Safety First, ALWAYS**
- ASK FOR HELP - If you are not sure how to set up your lathework for safe operation, do NOT commence the job
- Practise “STOP” or similar safety pause before using any equipment in the workshop or shed
 - Stop - Pause and mentally review the task you are about to perform
 - Think - Think about what could go wrong and identify possible hazards associated with the task
 - Observe - Observe your surroundings and look for available resources and any potential risks
 - Plan – Once you are happy that all issues have been identified and risks eliminated or minimized, proceed with your Plan of work

Video of Lathe Safety

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=safety+briefing+video+for+woodturning+workshop&&mid=91A07DFE5194D4A26C3A91A07DFE5194D4A26C3A&FORM=VAMGZC>