

Powermatic 16-32 Wide Belt Sander Safety Rules



The wide belt sander is used to quickly sand the surfaces of boards to a very smooth finish. It uses a sanding belt that is 17” wide to sand boards up to 16” wide in a single pass. Boards up to 32” wide can be sanded in two passes. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone using the Powermatic wide belt sander. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Wide Belt Sander Safety Rules:

1. Follow the 3” rule; always keep fingers at least 3” from the cabinet opening where the boards are fed.
2. Do not hold the boards so that you have fingers on the bottom side of the board when feeding the board into the sander. Your fingers could be caught between the board and the conveyor belt and cause serious damage to them.
3. Check there is air pressure at the sander before starting it.
4. Check that the sanding belt is properly installed and that it is tensioned.
5. Sand only boards that have been joined and surfaced on the planer. All boards must be flat, unless a Shop Leader approved jig is used.
6. Ensure that both cabinet doors are closed, and keep them closed when the sander is in operation.
7. Keep a balanced stance at the sander.
8. Never clear small pieces with your hand while the conveyor belt is moving. Use a brush, or stop the conveyor.
9. There are two emergency stops for the wide belt sander. There is a red button on the control panel and a black bar at the front of the conveyor. Verify their location and be prepared to

use one if an emergency situation occurs. The emergency stop activates a disk brake to stop the sanding belt and feed conveyor very quickly. Do not use these switches as a normal Stop Button.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A three foot perimeter around the sander should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that might impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls and to provide easy access to both the front and rear of the machine.
2. Safety glasses with side shields and hearing protection must be worn.
3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
4. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the CLUB Shop and on the wide belt sander with a safe attitude!
2. Ensure that the Onida dust collector is running and that the blast gate to the sander is open before starting the sander. Close the blast gate when you are finished using the sander and turn off the Onida dust collector if no one else is using it.
3. Do not try to sand boards that are shorter than 14” long. Short boards can get caught in the sander and cause serious damage.
4. Do not remove more material per pass than that recommended in the table posted on the sander cabinet.
5. If you hear a rhythmic click as the wood is being sanded, this often indicates that the sanding belt is torn or otherwise damaged. Turn off the sander, lock it out, remove the sanding belt and inspect it. If the sanding belt is damaged it will need to be replaced.
6. WARNING! If the sanding belt breaks, Push the emergency stop button or the safety bar in front of the conveyor belt as quickly as possible. Lockout the sander using the CLUB Lockout procedure. Notify the Shop Leader so that he can check the sander for damage.
7. If the work is too large for one person to handle, get help holding the stock or use infeed or outfeed supports.
8. Lockout/Tagout the sander before changing the sanding belt or performing any other maintenance operation. All adjustments must be done under the direction of the Shop Leader.
9. When you have finished your use of the sander, push both the conveyor and sanding belt stop buttons, close the blast gate and shutdown the Onida dust collector if no one else is using it. Then cleanup the area.