

# Router Safety

- Working Safely is not optional.
- Read the owner's manual for your router and understand what it says.
- Always use proper personal protective equipment (hearing, eye protection, and dust protection).
- Never operate your equipment while "under the influence".
- Disconnect the power source from your router prior to fitting bits, or making other adjustments.
- Ensure that bit is properly inserted into collet-between 1/16" and 1/8" off bottomed out position in collet.
- Prior to reconnecting power, check clearances for the bit and the base, tightness of the collet, and the base height adjustment. If using a table, check to ensure that the fences and accessories are securely tightened.
- Keep router flat on the work surface i.e., don't tilt when edge routing.
- After turning off router, wait until bit stops spinning to move to bench top
- Follow correct "feed" direction when routing using "plough" cut...generally, left to right in a counter-clockwise direction around outside of project. When routing "inside" a project, proceed in a clockwise direction. Generally, do not use a "climbing" cut.
- Make several shallow passes versus a single heavy pass,
- Recognize that different woods behave differently when being routed, i.e., cypress vs. oak.
- When using "old" wood, inspect carefully for imbedded metal objects, nails, screws, etc.

Fine Woodworking, Woodcraft and other popular woodworking magazines have good safety articles