

STUDY GUIDE

LATHE SAFETY

NAME: _____

CLASS OR PERIOD: _____

DATE OF INSTRUCTION: _____

1. Wear a face shield when operating a lathe.
2. Wear a cap. If your hair is long be sure it's tucked away neatly and tightly under the cap. Your hair *must* be kept away from the turning lathe.
3. Clothing must be tucked in and sleeves must be rolled up neatly, out of the way. Loose clothing can get caught in the lathe.
4. Don't wear any jewelry when you operate a lathe. Remove rings, watches, bracelets or necklaces.
5. Don't let anyone stand nearby or talk to you while you operate the lathe.
6. When a safety shield is used with the lathe, the shield must be clear and free of scratches, dust or waste material. Keep the shield clean so you can see through it clearly.
7. Inspect the wood carefully for defects. Be sure there are no knots, checks, splits or other defects. The wood must be sound and in good condition.
8. If the work has been glued, allow at least 24 hours for it to set up properly. Be sure the wood is firmly bonded together.
9. When the dead center is used, put paraffin, oil or soap on it. Lubricating the dead center reduces friction and prevents the stock from burning and coming loose.
10. Be sure the material is centered and fastened firmly, and that the handwheel on the tailstock is locked.
11. Set the tool rest in position close to the material, but clear of the material. Turn the stock by hand to be sure it clears the tool rest at all points. The tool rest must not touch the material.
12. Check the gouges and wood turning chisels to be sure they are sharp and in good condition, but don't test them with your fingers.
13. Some chisels and gouges are hand tools and some are for use with the lathe. Use *only* those chisels and gouges manufactured for lathe turning. Do not use anything except wood turning tools.
14. Adjust the speed of the lathe for the type of work you're going to do. Rough work should be done at the lowest speed possible. Large stock should also be turned at a lower speed.
15. If the lathe begins to shake or vibrate, turn it off immediately. A vibration usually means the work is off-center or coming loose.
16. When you measure or make an adjustment, turn off the lathe and wait for it to come to a complete stop. Do not use calipers or move the tool rest unless the lathe is completely stopped.
17. Keep the tools sharp. Stop the work from time-to-time and sharpen the tools. Using a dull tool on the lathe is extremely dangerous.
18. Always hold the cutting tool firmly with both hands.
19. Whenever possible, start the cut in the middle of the stock and cut toward the end. Don't start a cut at the end of the stock.
20. Deep cuts are dangerous. You could injure yourself or damage the cutting tool, the work and the lathe by forcing the cut. Make shallow, smooth, even cuts.
21. When faceplate turning, the material must be firmly and securely fastened to the faceplate.



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22. Use a scraping cut for faceplate turning. Don't use the gouge for faceplate turning.
23. Avoid cutting into the screws when mounting screws are used to hold the material to the faceplate.
24. Remove the tool rest before you begin sanding or polishing.
25. Polishing rags should be folded neatly to keep them from being caught in the turning lathe or the stock.
26. Use a slow speed for sanding and polishing. High speed produces too much heat.
27. Use the lathe *only* after its correct, safe operation has been fully demonstrated and you understand how to use it properly.