**Miter Saw aka “Chopsaw”**

The miter saw excels at cutting long boards into shorter ones. The blade can be tilted in two axes, allowing accurate miter and bevel cuts, or even combinations of miters and bevels.

The miter saw blade is not well-protected, so the danger of sawing into your hand is real.

Support both ends of the board so neither piece tips when you finish the cut.

The miter saw is very loud – hearing protection is essential.

The miter saw throws a lot of sawdust, so the floor around it can get very slippery.

Check the orientation of bevel and miter cuts carefully – should the cuts be parallel or converging? Likewise, be careful of measurements – are you measuring the correct dimension?

**Circular Saw aka “Skilsaw”**

The circular saw is basically a table saw without a table. The blade can be set to cut at a bevel and the depth of cut can be adjusted. It is far less accurate than a stationary saw, but can be useful for making stopped cuts in plywood.

Hearing protection is very important for this loud tool.

Plan your cut carefully – be sure to support the workpiece on multiple saw horses or clamp to a table edge, allowing for what will happen when the cut is completed.

Be sure the path under the cut is clear – you don’t want to cut the table!

Make a clear path for the saw’s cord as you cut, be sure it doesn’t drag or catch on the workpiece.

**Generic Power Tool Safety for Robotics Field Builders:**

1. The tool does not know or care about you or the work. The tool’s only goal is to convert electrical to mechanical energy by spinning something very sharp very fast.
2. Your goal is to arrange the world so the tool’s mechanical energy serves to cut wood fibers, rather than hurl projectiles, yank your hair, grab your arm or carve your flesh.
3. Remember chronic injury – use hearing protection and respiratory dust protection.

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