

Black Park Shed Safety Instructions

Woodworking Lathe

1. **Wear eye protection** – preferably a face shield or industrial quality safety glasses with side-shields.
2. **Wear short sleeve** shirts, if possible, or long-sleeve shirts with snugly fitting cuffs. Loose sleeves can catch on rotating work and quickly pull your hand or arm into danger. Do not wear necklaces, chains or jewelry. Tie back long hair. Avoid any clothing etc which could get caught in the rotating parts.
3. Always **start the lathe on a low speed**. The speed adjustment can only be changed while the lathe is running. Therefore start the lathe with no workpiece in place and move the speed lever to slowest. Try to always leave the lathe when you have finished work on low speed ready for the next user.
4. **Never leave the lathe running** unattended.
5. Always double check to make sure your work is **securely clamped** in the chuck or between centres before starting the lathe. Use a tailstock whenever possible particularly while roughing out. Work held between centres is much more secure. If using just a headstock make sure all jaws are tight or screw chucks fully tightened.
6. **Remove the chuck key** immediately after tightening the chuck. The chuck key can be a lethal projectile if the lathe is started with it in the chuck.
7. Adjust and **tighten the tool rest** and rotate the work by hand before starting the lathe to ensure that it can rotate freely and does not foul the rest.
8. Although experts will rough out work from very uneven timber, it is safest to make the work as round as possible with band or hand saw before mounting it in the lathe. Make sure the workpiece **does not have loose slivers or knots** which could become detached or splits which could open up.
9. Keep your fingers clear of the rotating work and cutting tools and particularly the chuck which often has projecting parts.
10. Generally, **use slower speeds for larger diameter** or rough pieces and increased speed for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed.
11. Keep the **belt guard or cover in** place. Check that all clamping devices are locked, such as on the tailstock and toolrest.
12. Keep the **tool rest as close as possible** to the workpiece to avoid cantilevering too much of the tool over the rest, so that it might catch in the work and lever dangerously out of your hands. Re-adjust the rest as the workpiece becomes smaller.
13. It is always safest to **turn the lathe off before adjusting the tool rest**.
14. Hold turning tools **securely on the toolrest** and hold the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner.
15. **Know your capabilities** and limits. An experienced woodturner may be capable of techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
16. Always **remove the toolrest before sanding or polishing** operations.
17. **Don't overreach**, keep proper footing and balance at all times. Keep the area free of waste and other clutter.
18. Keep **tools sharp and clean** for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool.
19. Don't use a tool for a purpose not intended.
20. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing, and use common sense.