

TABLE SAW SPLITTER (Riving Knife or Blade)



Positioned immediately behind the cutting saw blade of the SawStop (and all table saws) is a "splitter", its purpose is to hold the kerf (the width of the blade) open and to prevent kickback. It also saves the blade from burning the wood at the cut.



Quite often you will hear it called by its proper technical name, a "riving knife or blade" and mostly it looks like a shark's fin.

Although there are many causes for kickback, probably the most dangerous occurrence happens when the cut wood closes together as it passes behind the blade, as the upwardly rotating teeth at the back of the blade can throw the workpiece forward toward the operator.

WCMS's SawStop is fitted with the option of 2 different interchangeable splitters, one of them actually features anti-kickback pawls and a blade guard (but is limited to cutting timber of up to 75mm thickness).

The kerf created by the cutting blade is the thickness of the blade itself, however the widths of saw blades vary, yet the splitter is generally constant width.

For just about all projects this will create no difficulty, but for a small number of projects we have to be aware of this fact and choose the kerf of our cutting blade accordingly. If you have any doubts, speak to the Technical Supervisor, but under no circumstances should the splitter be removed when cutting.

If at any time you notice that any table saw does not have a splitter installed, it should not be used in our Shed, please inform a Supervisor immediately.

