



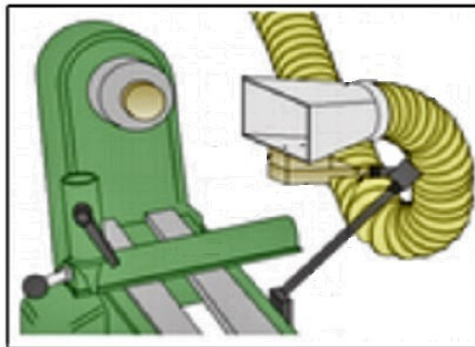
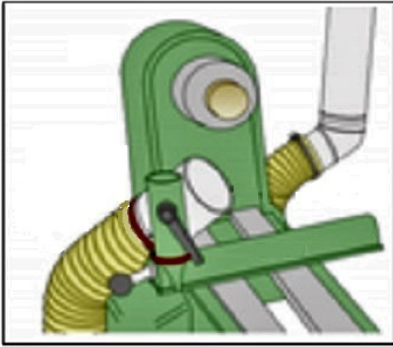
SAFETY FOR TURNERS

Article contributed by a member, source unknown

Wood Turners encounter some unique workshop safety issues not encountered in General Woodworking

In General Woodworking, a workpiece is restrained in some way and guided into contact with a high speed rotating cutter. In Wood Turning the reverse is the case. It is the workpiece that rotates at speed in a lathe and a cutting tool is manually held against the rotating workpiece by an operator. This reversal of roles introduces new risks for the operator. All the major operator risks found in General Woodworking are also found in Wood Turning.

These are planning and preparing, good housekeeping, concentration, appropriate clothing and of course, dust extraction and PPE – Personal Protection Equipment.



Efficient dust collection is made more difficult around a lathe, because of limited access plus the amount of waste being removed. Dust collecting points can be mounted (as shown) or a dust hood on a telescopic arm are the most efficient collectors at the source of the dust.

PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) – An operator's sight, hearing, lungs and hands are the senses at most risk during Wood Turning. Sometimes an irregular workpiece is chosen for its attractive features, one made up of laminated pieces or simply one with a square or rectangular profile.

These choices can be the cause of larger pieces breaking away and being thrown back at an operator. Operators (and spectators) should stand away from the "red zones". These zones are directly in front of (and behind) the workpiece. Ideally, it is recommended that operators wear a full face shield and one that covers the scalp.

It is also best an irregular workpiece is trimmed of waste before mounting in the lathe and tool rest clearance should always be checked before beginning work. Turning should be paused often to check for faults as they might become visible in the surface.

When sanding a workpiece still mounted in the lathe, the tool rest should be removed for better access.

It might also be tempting to use an application cloth to apply a finish product, but the risk of a cloth being caught makes this dangerous practice.