

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Working Safely With Band Saws

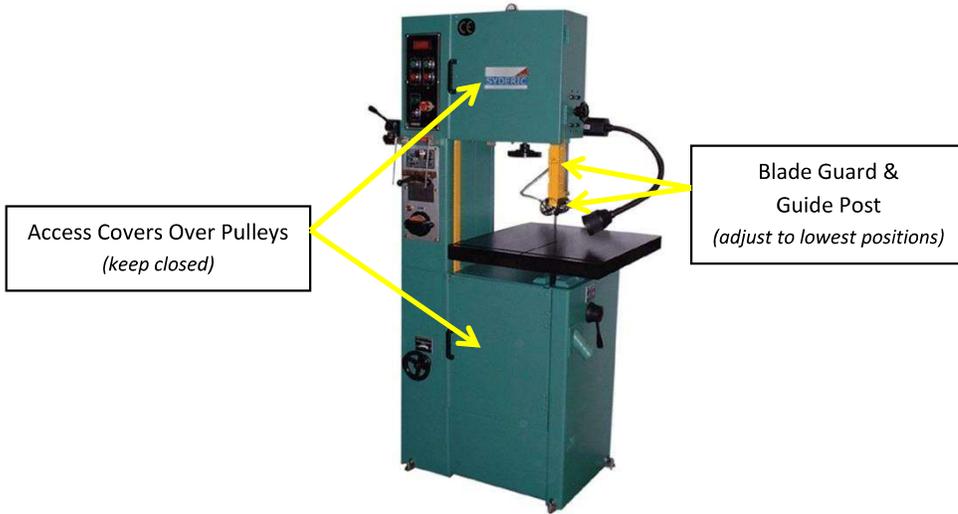
[Reference 1910.213 / 1926.304]

The band saw is one of the most versatile saws around. There are vertical band saws, meaning the blade runs in an up-to-down direction; and also horizontal band saws, which have blades that cut in a side-to-side direction (*refer to handout accompanying this toolbox talk for illustrations*). Here is an overview of a few recommended steps we should take to help us avoid some of the hazards commonly associated with band saws.

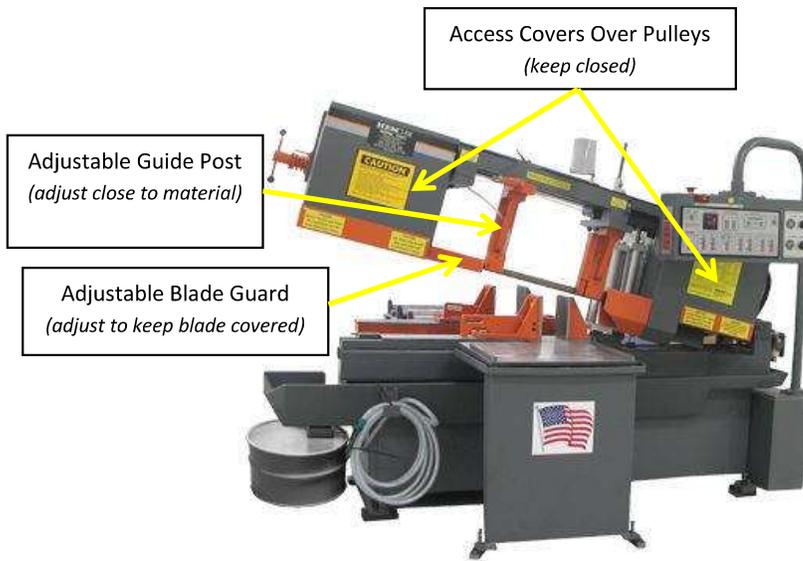
- Make certain the band saw blade you are using is suitable for the type of material to be cut, and the type of cut you will be making. For example, wider blades with fewer teeth are usually best suited for making rough cuts, whereas thinner blades with more teeth are better suited for making scroll cuts and tight turns.
- Also make sure the saw blade has been set to the proper tension before use, and periodically recheck and readjust the tension when needed. Also make certain there are no broken teeth, bent sections, or other damage to the blade.
- Adjust the blade guide post as close to the material being cut as practical to provide stability to the saw blade and to minimize the unguarded portion of the saw blade. Then, make certain the blade guard has been adjusted to cover the unused portion of the blade.
- Make sure all enclosures or access covers over pulleys and the saw blade are closed and secured to prevent accidental contact with the sharp blade and with nip points.
- Before cutting wood, inspect the material for knots, nails, staples, or other items that could create a hazard if they contact the saw blade. Avoid making cuts that strike these objects.
- Never place any part of your hand directly in line with the saw blade when pushing material to be cut; instead, make sure your hands stay to the sides of the saw blade to avoid injury in case your hand slips or you push too far. And always utilize a push stick, where necessary, to feed material to prevent your hands from getting too close to the band saw blade.
- Never reach with your hand to pick up material that has been cut until the machine has been turned off and the saw blade has come to a complete stop.
- Always utilize proper PPE, and be sure to avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing and gloves.

Does anyone have a question or comment about these tips for the safe set-up and use of band saws? Anybody have other safety tips we did not cover here? Please be sure to sign your name to the training certification form so you get credit for attending today's training session.

BAND SAW SAFETY



Vertical Band Saw



Horizontal Band Saw