

Kansas City Art Institute

Continuing and Professional Studies Safety Manual

Woodworking – Main Campus – East Building

Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety goggles will be provided.
- Students should wear long pants and long sleeves.
- Closed-toe shoes are recommended.
- Tie back long hair, roll up long sleeves, tuck in loose clothing, and remove loose jewelry.

Woodworking Hazards

- Woodworking machines have sharp rotation blades that pose physical hazards. Keep hands away from blades. Use machine safety guards whenever possible.
- Ask the instructor if unsure of the safe way to use a machine.
- Wood dusts can pose a variety of lung hazards, and can also cause allergic reactions in some people. Use the vacuum system to assure proper ventilation, and wear a respirator if you are particularly sensitive.
- Wood saps can cause skin reactions in some people. Use gloves or barrier creams.
- Plywood and Composition board contain various glues, resins and other chemicals. These are highly toxic by inhalation, eye contact and ingestion, and slightly toxic by skin contact. Take precautions to limit exposure.
- Some woods contain preservatives and other treatments, some of which can be highly toxic. Only use woods of known safe origin.
- Various woodworking glues are toxic and flammable. Use only water based glues in the Central Shop.
- Use water based wood finishes whenever possible. Use caution when working with varnishes and stains, as they can be flammable and emit toxic fumes. Wear gloves and a respirator, according to package instructions. Dispose of brushes and rags according to instructions. Do not mix finishes, as this may cause adverse chemical reactions.
- Woodworking machines can be very loud, and can cause hearing damage. Wear ear plugs or ear muffs when necessary.
- When using hand tools for carving and chiseling, cut away from the body, and keep tools sharp to minimize accidents.