

Lathe Safety Guidelines Worland Middle School

(Adopted from AAW resources)

1. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses.
2. Turn the lathe “off” before adjusting the tool rest. **Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off.**
3. Remove chuck keys, adjusting wrenches and knockout bars. Form a habit of checking for these before turning on the lathe.
4. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, and avoid loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch on rotating parts or accessories. Do not wear open toed shoes like flip-flops.
5. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted.
6. Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly (rest and base) are tight before operating the lathe.
7. Make sure the wood blank is securely fastened.
8. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe “on”.
9. Be aware of what turners call the “red zone” or “firing zone.” This is the area directly behind and in front of the workpiece—the areas most likely for a piece to travel as it comes off the lathe. A good safety habit is to step out of this zone when turning on the lathe, keeping your hand on the switch in case you need to turn the machine off. When observing someone else turn, stay out of their red zone.
10. **ALWAYS CHECK THE SPEED OF THE LATHE BEFORE TURNING IT ON.** Use slower speeds for larger diameters or rough pieces, and higher speeds for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. Always start a piece at a slower speed until the workpiece is balanced.
11. Hold turning tools securely on the tool rest (ABC), holding the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always contact the tool rest with the tool before contacting the wood.
12. Know your capabilities and limitations. When you are not sure of a procedure or when you are not sure if you are turning safely, ASK for help.
13. Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing or polishing operations.
14. Don't use a tool for a purpose it was not designed or intended.
15. Know all lathe terms/parts of the lathe before turning.

