

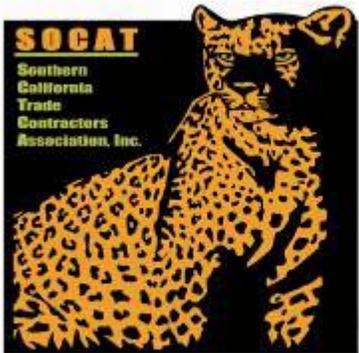
Southern California Trade Contractors Association, Inc.

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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RECIPROCATING SAWS



Southern California Trade Contractors Association, Inc

Administrator

Mark Hebson
22925 Arlington Ave Ste 1
Torrance, CA 90501

Call Toll Free
(800) 530-9662
FAX 310-530-0081
www.socattrade.com

A **Reciprocating Saw** is a type of saw with a horizontal blade that is repeatedly pushed forward and back with the use of a motor. It is primarily used to cut through hard construction materials. They are most useful for making quick, crude cuts through surfaces. Safety precautions should be followed when using these powerful tools:

1. **Before Operating any Power Tool-** take time to read the owner's manual and be familiar with the safety hazards and recommended operational procedures.
2. **Inspect the Saw Prior to Use-** ensuring that the blade is sharp and the blade guard is mounted securely and never removed, that the handle is not broken, cracked or greasy and that the electrical cord is in good condition.
3. **Keep the Work Area Safe-** Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, as power tools create sparks which may ignite dust or flammable vapors. Keep the area well lit and free from clutter. Keep co-workers, children and pets away while operating a reciprocal saw.
4. **Wear Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment** including eye protection, dust masks, ear protection and slip-resistant footwear. Dress properly and keep gloves, clothing and hair out of the way of the reciprocating saw. Do

not wear jewelry which can be caught in moving parts.

5. **Maintain Proper Balance-** Proper footing and balance enables better control of the tool in unexpected situations. Avoid over-reaching which can cause you to lose your balance.
6. **Maintain Electrical Safety-** Never operate an electric reciprocating saw in wet conditions and avoid body contact with grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges and refrigerators. There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is grounded. Ensure the switch is off prior to plugging it into an outlet. Never yank or drag the saw by the cord. Tools marked “Grounding Required” have a three wire cord and three prong grounding plug. The plug must be connected to a properly grounded outlet. Use an appropriate GFCI protected extension cord or outdoor outlets. If the cord is damaged, do not use it.
7. **Use the Reciprocating Saw Correctly-** Remove any adjusting keys or wrenches before turning the tool on. When holding the saw use only the provided gripping areas. Never use excessive force when operating the saw or cut through concealed surfaces without checking beforehand.
8. **Turn Off the Saw When Performing Maintenance-** When changing blades, cleaning or storing a reciprocating saw, turn off the power supply and unplug the saw. Never leave the tool unattended. Such preventative safety measures reduce the risk of starting the tool accidentally. Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that

may affect saw operation. If damaged, tag the tool with “Do Not Use” and have the saw repaired by qualified repair personnel. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained tools.

9. **Keep Hands Clear of the Saw-** never reach around or under the material being cut and keep hands away from all cutting edges and moving parts to prevent injuries.
10. **Never Use a Reciprocating Saw if You Are Ill-** or if you have consumed alcohol, medication or some other drug that causes you to become drowsy. Your safety and the safety of others around you are important.