

# How to Use a Circular Saw

This type of hand held power saw is a basic tool in timber construction. Circular saws come in a variety of sizes from 160 mm up to 235mm blade size.

## 1. Set the blade depth.

Set the saw for the proper depth of cut. Don't have much more of the blade showing than you really need for the job you are doing. So to cut 40mm thick timber, set your blade to about 45mm or 50mm. This helps to minimize kickback.



## 2. Sight the cut.

Look down the face of the right hand side of the blade and line it up to the pencil mark when beginning your cut.

Look at the front of the saw to the two guide notches. The right hand one is a guide for cutting with the blade set in the normal position, and the other one is for when the base angled at 45 deg. Line the notch up to the pencil line.



## 3. Start cutting, after a quick check to the front of the blade.

Keep your eye on the guide all the time. This puts you in a natural position looking forward along the pencil line, and out of the way of any sawdust.

Keep an eye on the saw base as you are into the cut. Make sure that you are keeping the base of the circular saw flat on the timber being cut.



4. **Push the saw into the material.** Use enough force to keep the blade cutting, but avoid pushing so hard the motor speed seems to decrease, or binding occurs on the blade. A sharp blade should pass through any but the hardest materials with minimal effort.



4. **Be sure the lower blade guard returns to its position when you exit the cut.** Even a blade guard in good condition will occasionally bind if a piece of debris from the cut becomes lodged in its mechanism.

