

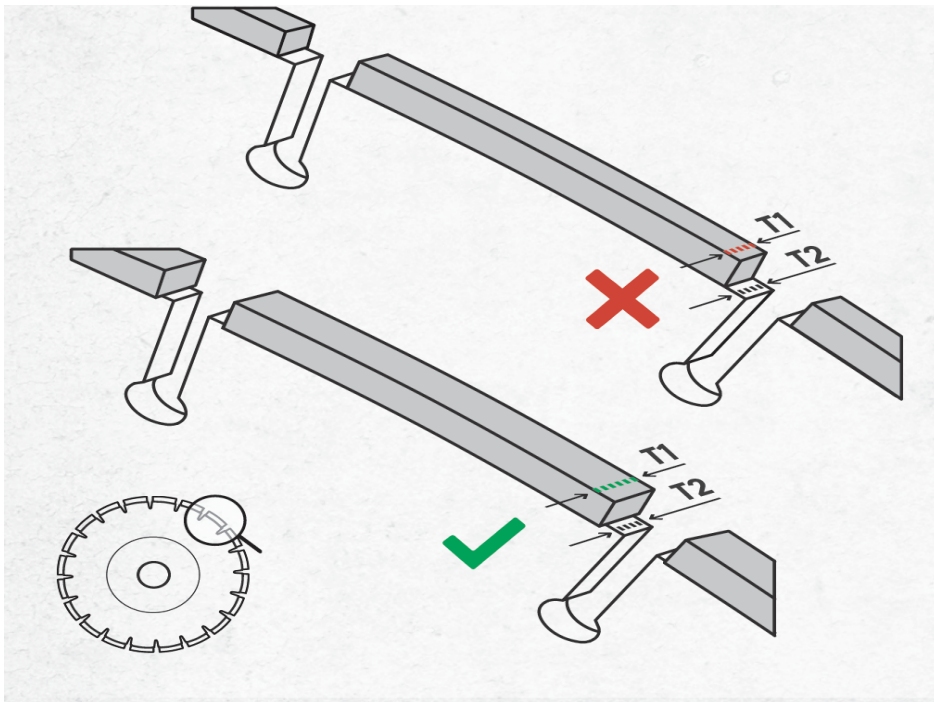
Toolbox Talk: Saw Kickback

Recently there has been a high number of MIOSHA reportable injuries due to kickbacks while using pipe saws. Almost all of these incidents have resulted in serious injuries, missed time, and MIOSHA citations. Although they have not always been the saw operator's fault and they are not always explainable, there are things that can be done to minimize the risks.

This is a great time of year to perform a Toolbox Talk with affected employees to cover the following material:

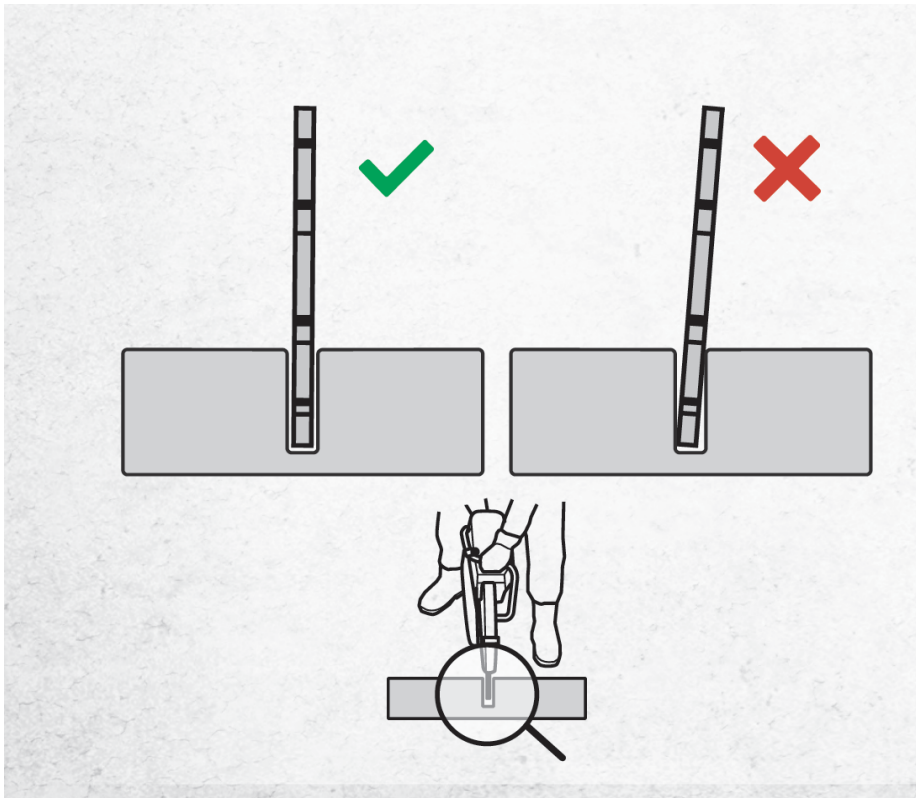
NEVER USE A DIAMOND BLADE WITH WORN-OUT SEGMENTS

To ensure the right amount of side clearance, the thickness of the segment (T1) must exceed the thickness of the blade's steel core (T2). Otherwise, the core might get pinched in the cut. Most saw blades are fitted with wear indicators to help you judge whether the blade is ok to use or not.



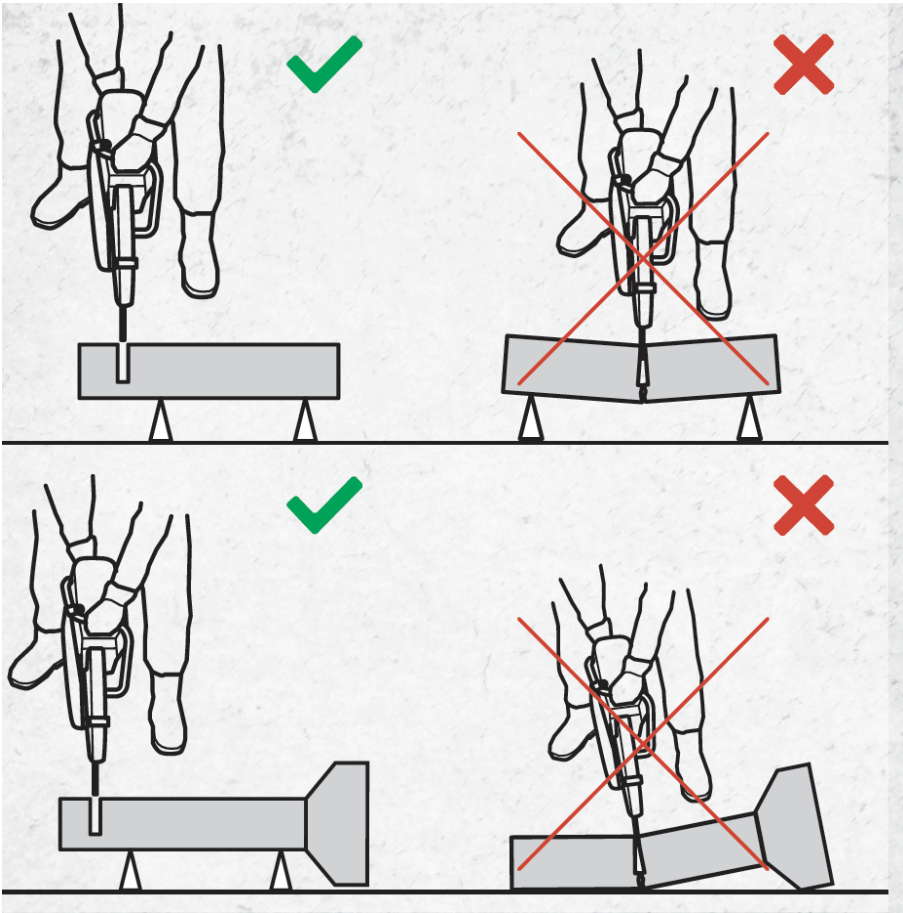
KEEP THE BLADE STRAIGHT IN THE CUT

If you twist or angle the machine sideways in the cut, the blade might get pinched and cause a kickback. Be especially careful when you put a rotating blade into an existing cut.



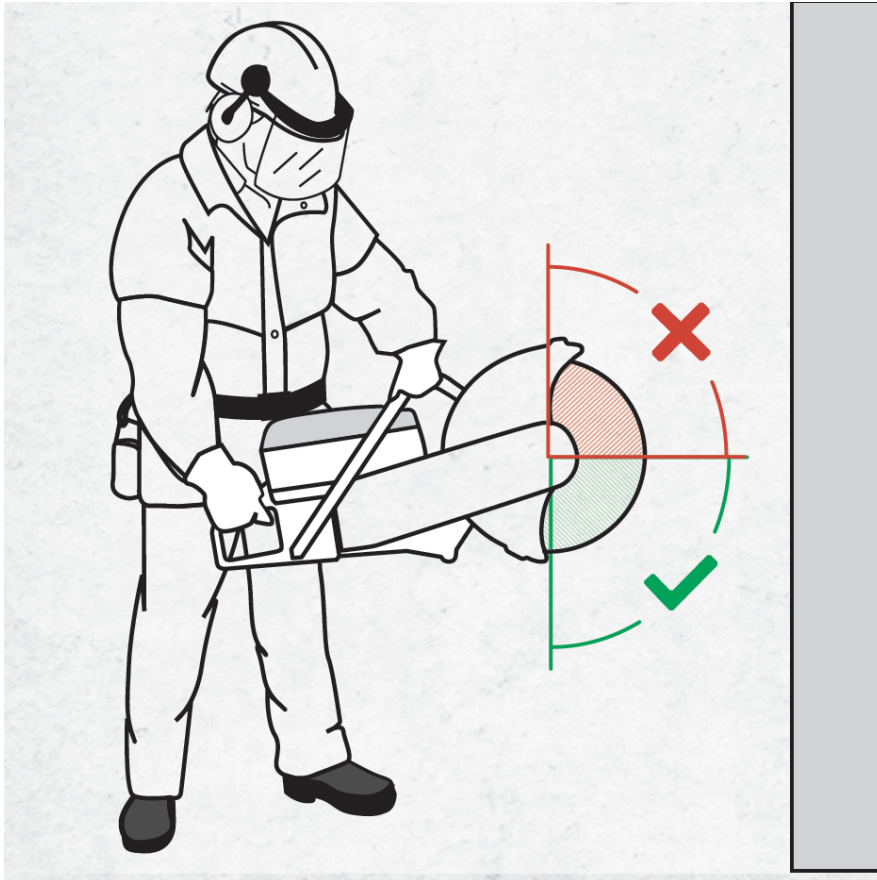
MAKE SURE YOUR WORKPIECE IS PROPERLY SUPPORTED

The workpiece must always be supported so that the cut stays open when you cut through. If the cut closes and pinches the blade, there is a risk of kickback. Be especially alert when cutting a pipe with a belled end, a pipe that could be in tension, or a pipe in a trench that, if not properly supported, may sag and pinch the blade.



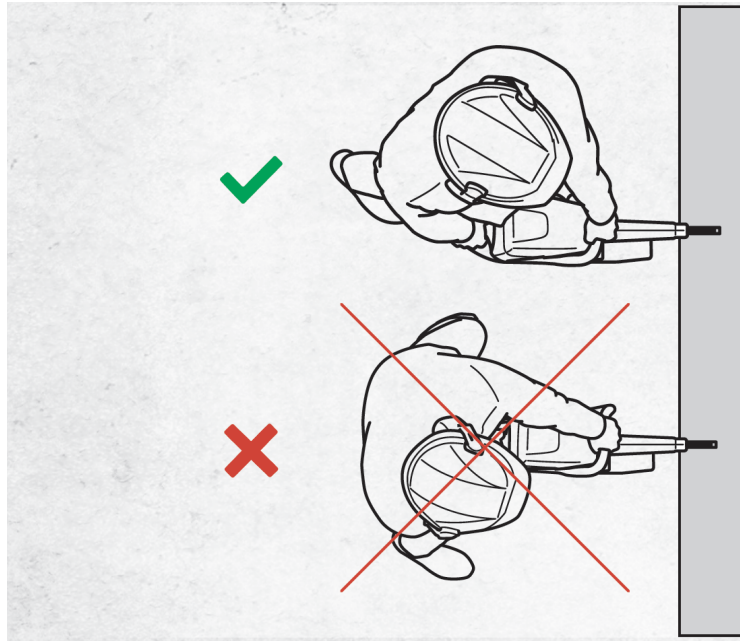
NEVER CUT IN THE KICKBACK ZONE

The upper quadrant of the blade is known as the kickback zone. If the kickback zone is used for cutting, the reactive force drives the blade to climb up in the cut. Always use the lower quadrant of the blade to avoid climbing kickback.



STAND PARALLEL TO THE CUTTING BLADE

Avoid standing directly behind and facing the rotating blade while cutting. This means that in the event of a severe kickback, the saw will move in the plane of the cutting blade and pass beside you.



If you have any questions, or would like to perform the Toolbox Talk on this topic or any topic, contact MITA's Director of Safety and Compliance Greg Brooks at 517-507-2531 or gregbrooks@thinkmita.org