

RCI Safety Series Passport — Push Sticks

Student Name: _____

Certification Date: _____, 20____

When should you use push sticks?

Push sticks or push blocks should be used when operating standard woodworking machinery, including table saws, band saws, radial arm saws, jointer/planers and shapers. These sticks protect the hand while allowing good hand control of the stock as it is pushed through the cutting head or blade. Push blocks for Jointer/Planers should be constructed for two-handed positioning. Always use a push stick.

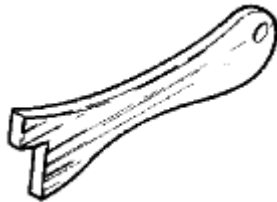
Guide the wood onto the machine's table using your hands before using the push stick. This will ensure that the wood is fed smoothly and that you avoid having the wood see-saw on the edge of the machine table.

What are some features of a push block?

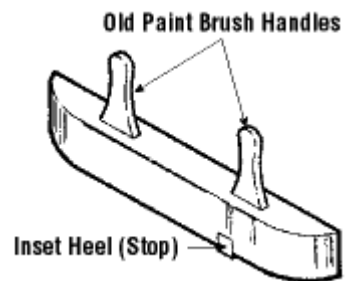
Hold-down push blocks should:

- ✓ be rigid
- ✓ enable the operator to protect both hands
- ✓ allow the operator to exert a firm and steady pressure on the work piece.

The following are samples of push blocks.



Simple push sticks are useful on a table saw when distance between the blade and fence is narrow.



Double-handled hold-down push block

Ensure that you follow all shop safety rules

➡ **Safety First** ⬅