**Masonry Saw**

The use of a masonry saw can save time and produce cleaner cuts on blocks, bricks, tile, or other materials. Portable and stationary masonry saws are available. Full-sized models have abrasive blades or diamond-tipped blades that can be cooled with water. Masonry saws should be used according to the following guidelines:

* The manufacturer's manual for the saw you will be operating should be read and understood. Follow all safety requirements.
* Before using, check for missing, loose, or damaged parts. Replace or repair immediately. Check that the blade is secure.
* Check the power cord and any other electrical wires for breaks or frays that could cause an electrical shock. Check belts for tension and frays. Adjust or replace as needed. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be connected.
* Use the right extension cord.
  + The size of wire in an extension cord must be compatible with the amount of current the cord will be expected to carry. The amount of current depends on the equipment.
* Make sure the electric water pump is working properly before using the wet saw.
* Check the water tray; too little water could result in your blade overheating and being damaged.
* Change the water frequently to prevent buildup of sludge. Drain and flush with clean water when needed and at the end of the workday.
  + Keep all water lines clear and clean. Make sure all contaminated water is disposed of properly.
* Make sure the frame is grounded to prevent electrical shock. A qualified electrician should perform this task.
  + Never touch or ground a metal object to another close by, while the saw is running.
* Never stand in water. Use a wooden platform to stand on that will provide additional protection against grounding.
* If the blade is touching the masonry to be cut, do not start the saw. Until the blade reaches full power, keep it free.
* Before cutting any material, ensure that it is laid flush in the conveyor cart or fence and that there are no chips under it. This can cause the blade to bind or kick back. Let the material go if the blade binds.
* Use the proper blade for the materials you are cutting. Remember to use only shatter resistant blades for dry saw operations.
* Saw blades must be kept clean to keep the material from moving during the cut.
  + Never force the blade. Forcing the blade can damage or cause it to shatter and injure the operator. Inspect the blade before each operation.
* Remember; at the end of the day, blades should be removed and stored to prevent accidental damage. Inspect for damage.
* Never use the saw to hone or clean chisel blades and other tools. This will dull the blade.
* Diamond blades should never be used to dry saw unless they are designed to do so. It can cause permanent damage to the blade.
* Always keep hands away from the cut. Never try to mark a brick or other material while it is on the saw table with the blade running.
  + If the material is a thin cut, use scrap pieces to hold it in place, this will keep the hands from getting too close to the blade.