

Rick Urban - Woodturner

Help Desk

Don't Do It!

A couple of weeks ago I had occasion to post a conspicuous sign and my shop. It read "Don't do it!" I will not tell you precisely what happened to inspire this action, but I will give you a list of things that might resonate with some of your experiences. Some things you knew you shouldn't do but did. Some things you don't want to do again but might.

- Ever try to use a band saw to cut a limb or half log chunk resting on the bark side?
- How about using a table saw miter gauge and the rip fence simultaneously?
- Know what happens when you tried to use a jointer on a board that is too short?
- Ever wonder why you did not use the tailstock when the bowl flew off the chuck?
- What happened when you tried to turn that cracked bowl blank that you should have burned?
- How many bowls can you turn before you will wish you had used a face shield?
- How many dust particles can you inhale before a dust mask is a good idea?
- How big do the particles from your grinder have to be before they are hazardous to your eyes or lungs?
- How many cuts do you have to make before safety becomes worth the trouble?
- Having just a little bit of sanding to do does not make a little bit of dust okay to breathe.
- Turning wood you're not sure will not explode is not a good idea.

A lack of attention to safety in the shop can accumulate insidiously to decrease your chances for a long and happy life.

Take the trouble to do it safely or... ..DON'T DO IT!

For more information visit my website

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Changing the way you think about wood... one piece at a time.