

Wet Abrasive Saw

Safe Operating Procedure

Operation of this equipment is restricted to trained personnel familiar with the user instructions, general safety precautions, and laboratory rules. Contact the laboratory manager or your supervisor/group leader to get permission to use this equipment.

The two large fixed wet (diamond-) abrasive saws (“rock saws”) available at the Wet Lab at the Natural History Museum at Økern are suitable for cutting and shaping of **geological materials**. They are NOT suited for cutting metals, plastics, or wood.

Working alone: Avoid using the rock saw(s) when you are alone in the lab. If being alone in the lab cannot be avoided, please notify the lab manager or other NHM staff member when and for how long you will be using the saw(s). Once you finish your work remember to call/email them again!

Always Use Personal Protective Equipment



Safety glasses must be worn.



Hearing protection must be worn.



Foot protection must be worn.



Long and loose hair must be contained.



Close fitting clothing must be worn.



Rings and jewelry must not be worn.



Pre-Operational Safety Checks

1. Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls, i.e. power switch, water supply, foot pedal.
2. Evaluate the work piece material type and appropriateness of the saw and cutting wheel.
3. Determine the location and angles(s) of cuts required.
4. Determine the required clamping/supports needed.
5. Obtain appropriate PPE; remove all loose clothing, jewelry and securely tie back long hair.
6. Ensure no slip/trip hazards are present in the workspace.
7. Keep table and work area clear of all tools and cut-off material.
8. Check for visible damage to the equipment, i.e., inspect the cutting blade for chips and cracks. If a crack or flaw is evident, the blade must be discarded. DO NOT change the saw blade yourself.
9. DO NOT use faulty equipment and report suspect machinery.

Operational Safety Checks

1. Locate work piece on moving tray/table. Ensure that it is placed firmly against the back fence of the tray/table.
2. Turn on the water supply and verify it is working with sufficient supply for the job.
3. Turn on the power switch and step on the foot pedal. Let the cutting blade reach full speed before attempting the cut.
4. Ease the work piece slowly and carefully against the cutting blade when starting to cut. Never make free-hand cuts by raising the work piece into the cutting blade.
5. Make sure your hands and other body parts are away from the blade and cutting area.
6. Once the work piece is cut, release the foot pedal and wait for the blade to stop before removing the work and/or cut-off piece.

Post-Operational Safety Checks

1. Switch of the saw when work completed and before removing waste material from work site.
2. Always turn off the water supply.
3. Clean up saw, water pan and work area for the next user. Rinse and wipe the drain if necessary. Dispose the waste material in the appropriate waste bin.
4. Make sure cutting blade is still in good condition after usage. Report any issues to the lab manager.
5. Leave the equipment in a safe, clean and tidy state.