

# Beginner's Tips for Using a Hand Saw

Learn how to use a hand saw properly so you can get the quickest, cleanest cut. Find out how to prevent a saw from binding and how to hold the saw correctly.

## 1. GRIP

- Pointing out your forefinger along the grip helps get a more accurate cut.

## 2. SAW ANGLE

- Hold the saw at about a 45 degree angle to where you are cutting.

## 3. POSTURE

- Keep your elbow close to your body to help keep the cut straight and the blade from wobbling.

## 4. START THE CUT

- Start by getting a small notch going. Begin a bit to the waste side of the cut line, because the saw will leave a kerf, or groove. Press the section of the saw blade that's closest to the handle, onto the cutting surface. Lightly drag the saw back the length of the blade.

## 5. PRESSURE

- Don't press down heavily on the saw, or it will bind. Let the sharp blades do the work for you as you cut.

## 6. SAW STROKE

- Take long strokes to use the full length of the blade. Short strokes will wear your blade out unevenly, and it will take you longer to make cuts. Long strokes let the saw do most of the work for you.

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- Clamp a scrap of wood along the cutline, it helps keep the blade in line and protects the surface if your saw skips.
- If the wood is pinching in or behind the cut, the saw can bind. Stick a nail in the cut as you go to prevent this.
- Make sure the waste end of the board can fall freely.
- Cut with a shallow angle when cutting wet wood or when finishing up a cut to finish it off smoothly.
- Use a sharp blade and make sure to use proper saw for the job.

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**NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.**