

Saw Safety

This resource can help with the following Backwoods areas:

- Stage 1: I know how to use hand tools safely.
- Stage 2: I can use hand tools correctly.
- Stage 3: I can use camp tools safely on camp.
- Stage 5: I know how to use and care for tools (of all kinds) safely.

The Saw is one of the most common tools used by Scouts in Backwoods and other Adventure activities. The safe and competent use of these tools is paramount to ensure that the users remain accident free. What is outlined below are 'Safe Practises' that should be used **and** importantly **revised** every time our members are undertaking tasks using saws.

There are many types of saws that can be utilised in Scouting, but the two main ones used for Backwoods is the Bow type saw and the folding saw.

The Bow Saw – The Bow Saw is a saw that a lot of care should be taken in its use, because it has a flexible blade with large teeth. Because of this it can 'jump' at the initial stages of cutting and can be a hazard.



One method that can be used at the initial cut is outlined below and ensures that if the saw 'jumps' that the users hand is NOT in a position to come into contact with the blade. Once the initial cut has started, the user can revert to the normal method of using a saw.



Always ensure that the wood is properly secured before attempting to cut it.



One method of cutting wood unaided with a folding saw is by 'clamping' the wood as shown below – it is both adaptive and safe.

