1. Wear proper personal protection equipment. Safety glasses or face shield are required. Wear hearing protection that is appropriate for the level and duration of the noise in the tool room. A dust mask is recommended. Do not wear gloves.

2. Wear proper apparel. No loose fitting cloths or neckties. No loose jewelry. Long hair must be covered or tied back. Non-slip footwear is recommended.

3. Keep the work area clean. Cluttered areas and benches invite accidents.

4. Check the wood to make sure it has no defects that would cause it to break when turning. Remove all moldy wood immediately.

5. Check all glue joints before mounting the stock. A weak joint may come apart when revolving at high speeds. Make sure all glued-up stock is completely dry before turning.

6. Fasten stock securely between centers. Make sure the tailstock is locked before turning on the power.

7. Adjust the tool rest as close to the stock as possible. Then revolve the stock by hand to make sure it clears the rest.

8. Always stop the lathe before making any adjustments such as changing the position of the tool rest.

9. Run all stock at the slowest speed until it is rounded.

10. For stock over 6” in diameter, maintain slower speed; from 3” to 6”, medium speed; under 3”, use faster speeds.

11. Hold turning tools firmly in both hands.

12. Keep the tool rest as close to the work as possible. At intervals, stop the lathe and readjust.

13. Make sure the stock is firmly fastened to the faceplate before turning.

14. Remove the tool rest when sanding or polishing. If you don’t, your fingers may get caught between the tool rest and the stock.