



*Oxon
Woodturners*

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Risk assessment for woodturning demonstrations on Club nights

Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Slipping or tripping	Demonstrator	3	3	Moderate (9)	• Maintain clear area around the lathe. • Ensure appropriate footwear is worn. • Cables should be safely routed away from walkways. • Sawdust/shavings should be cleared away regularly to avoid accumulation.
Entanglement with rotating workpiece	Demonstrator	3	4	High (12)	• Long hair should be tied back. • Loose clothing should not be worn. • Gloves should not be worn. • Cloth (for applying finish) and abrasive paper/mesh should not be wrapped around fingers when in use. • When sanding or applying finish, the workpiece should be stationary where possible. If rotation of the workpiece is necessary (for example, when using an inertia sander, or burnishing a wax finish), ensure the toolrest/banjo is removed to a safe location. • Ensure lathe is unplugged when changing pulley/belt configuration to avoid accidental power-up.
Workpiece coming loose or fragmenting (projectile)	Demonstrator and Audience	3	4	High (12)	• Check the workpiece for defects before mounting on the lathe. • Ensure the workpiece is securely mounted on the lathe before turning the machine on.

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Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Workpiece coming loose or fragmenting (projectile)	Demonstrator and Audience	3	4	High (12)	- When using a chuck, the recess or tenon should be adequately sized and appropriately shaped for the work-holding jaws fitted. - Minimise unsupported projection where possible. When work is held in the chuck alone (i.e. without tailstock or steady rest), the maximum acceptable length of the workpiece is ca 3× its diameter. - Ensure the workpiece will not foul the toolrest or banjo before turning the lathe on. - Start the lathe at low speed and increase to an appropriate speed for the size of the workpiece. - Avoid using dull tools and/or excessive force when turning. - Maintain good practices when presenting tools to the workpiece (e.g. Anchor, Bevel, Cut). - When parting off, it is preferred to turn down to an appropriately small diameter and finish the operation using a saw whilst the workpiece is stationary. - Wear PPE as appropriate, e.g face shield or safety specs, and consider the use of an impact-resistant screen to protect the audience. - Avoid turning large and/or unbalanced workpieces, and use tailstock support or steady rest where possible
Electrical hazard	Demonstrator	1	5	Moderate (5)	- Ensure electrical equipment (e.g. lathe, power supply/extension lead, plugs and sockets) is in good working order and with no visible signs of damage. - Ensure equipment has a valid PAT sticker before use. - Avoid contact with water and ensure adequate shelter from adverse weather conditions (e.g. rain)
Fatigue	Demonstrator	3	4	High (12)	- Ensure adequate lighting for the task at hand. - Take regular breaks e.g. by sharing the demonstration with other turners. - Adopt a comfortable body position when turning and consider the use of anti-fatigue mat/flooring. - Where possible the centre height of the lathe should be appropriate for the turner (at about elbow-height) - Where possible the centre height of the lathe should be appropriate for the turner (at ca elbow-height)
Tool handling and “catches”	Demonstrator and Audience	4	4	High (16)	- Keep tools away from members of the audience where possible. - Maintain adequate control of the tool by using both hands and ensure contact with the toolrest. - Do not touch (or encourage others to touch) the cutting edge(s) of the tools. - Ensure the correct tool is being used for the task at hand and be mindful of the grain orientation of the workpiece.

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Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Tool handling and “catches”	Demonstrator and Audience	4	4	High (16)	- Minimise overhang of the tool by ensuring the toolrest is positioned closely to the workpiece. - Ensure depth of cut is appropriate and take multiple light passes where necessary.
Audience entering the work area	Demonstrator and Audience	4	4	High (16)	- Maintain an appropriate exclusion zone (e.g. by use of barriers as necessary). - Appropriate number of OWC members to help ensure audience remain at an acceptable distance. “Hands-on” should not be allowed during demonstration; invite the club night to participate instead.
Fire	Demonstrator and Audience	3	5	High (15)	- Flammable materials should be kept from sources of ignition. - Use of solvents should be minimised where possible. - Use of polymerising oils etc are discouraged when demonstrating as the oily rags (e.g. those used to apply linseed or tung oil finishes) present a fire risk if stored or disposed of improperly (i.e. by self-heating). If they are used, the oily rags should be spread out to minimise self-heating and stored in an appropriately-sized air-tight and heat-resistant container. It is the responsibility of the demonstrator to ensure the oily rags are removed from the premises and disposed of appropriately. - Burning tools (e.g. pyrography pen or blowtorch) should not be used without completing a separate risk assessment. - Location of fire-fighting media (e.g. sand, fire extinguisher) and call-points should be identified/confirmed before demonstration starts. - Ensure escape route is kept clear at all times. - Particular attention should be paid when sharpening/grinding tools, as this typically generates hot sparks which may cause ignition of nearby flammable material.
Toxic species and wood allergies/sensitization	Demonstrator and Audience	3	5	High (15)	- Demonstrator will typically receive significant exposure to wood dust(s) when turning (and particularly when sanding). Consider the use of a dust mask or other respiratory PPE when turning. - Sanding should be minimised/avoided where possible to reduce exposure and where necessary, it is preferred to sand without the workpiece spinning to try and confine the dust to the local area, unless dust extraction is used. - Use of known toxic woods (e.g. Yew, Laburnum) should be avoided for demonstration purposes. - Use of woods that are known sensitisers (e.g. Cocobolo, Rosewood) should be avoided for demonstration purposes.

Risk assessment for practical sessions (“Hands-on”) and woodturning tuition.

Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Slipping or tripping	Everyone	3	3	Moderate (9)	• Maintain clear area around the lathe. • Ensure appropriate footwear is worn. • Cables should be safely routed away from walkways. • Sawdust/shavings should be cleared away regularly to avoid accumulation. • Audience should be restricted from walking close to the lathe where possible.
Workpiece coming loose or fragmenting (projectile)	Everyone	3	4	High (12)	• Check the workpiece for defects before mounting on the lathe. • Ensure the workpiece is securely mounted on the lathe before turning the machine on. • When using a chuck, the recess or tenon should be adequately sized and appropriately shaped for the work-holding jaws fitted. • Minimise unsupported projection where possible. When work is held in the chuck alone (i.e. without tailstock or steady rest), the maximum acceptable length of the workpiece is ca 3× its diameter. • Ensure the workpiece will not foul the toolrest or banjo before turning the lathe on. • Start the lathe at low speed and increase to an appropriate speed for the size of the workpiece. • Avoid using dull tools and/or excessive force when turning. • Ensure the correct tool is being used for the task at hand and be mindful of the grain orientation of the workpiece • Maintain good practices when presenting tools to the workpiece (e.g. Anchor, Bevel, Cut). • When parting off, it is preferred to turn down to an appropriately small diameter and finish the operation using a saw whilst the workpiece is stationary. • Everyone in the vicinity of the lathe should wear PPE as appropriate, e.g face shield or safety specs, and an impact-resistant screen should be used where available to protect the audience. • Avoid turning large and/or unbalanced workpieces, and use tailstock support or steady rest where possible
Electrical hazard	Everyone	1	5	Moderate (5)	• Ensure electrical equipment (e.g. lathe, power supply/extension lead, plugs and sockets) is in good working order and with no visible signs of damage. • Ensure equipment has a valid PAT sticker before use. • Avoid contact with water and ensure adequate shelter from adverse weather conditions (e.g. rain)

Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Fatigue	Everyone	3	4	High (12)	• Ensure adequate lighting for the task at hand. • Take regular breaks e.g. by taking it in turns to practice turning and support other members. • Adopt a comfortable body position when turning and consider the use of anti-fatigue mat/flooring. • Where possible the centre height of the lathe should be appropriate for the turner (at about elbow-height).
Tool handling and “catches”	Everyone	4	4	High (16)	• Maintain adequate control of the tool by using both hands and ensure contact with the toolrest. Mentors should guide novice turners to present the tool to the workpiece in a safe and effective manner (Angle, Bevel, Cut) • Do not touch (or encourage others to touch) the cutting edge(s) of the tools. • When moving across the room with a tool, be mindful of other individuals and carry the tool with the working end pointing downward to minimise risk of injury. • Ensure the correct tool is being used for the task at hand and be mindful of the grain orientation of the workpiece and the experience level of the turner. • Minimise overhang of the tool by ensuring the toolrest is positioned closely to the workpiece. • Ensure depth of cut is appropriate and take multiple light passes where necessary.
Audience entering the work area	Everyone	4	4	High (16)	• Maintain an appropriate exclusion zone (e.g. by use of barriers as necessary). • Only the mentor and mentee should be in the immediate vicinity of the lathe; audience members should remain at a safe distance for viewing. • If it is necessary for audience members to approach (e.g. to participate in turning), they should be permitted first by those operating the lathe so as to not cause surprise and so that appropriate action (e.g. stopping the lathe) may be taken prior to their engagement.
Fire	Everyone	3	5	High (15)	• Flammable materials should be kept from sources of ignition. • Use of solvents should be minimised where possible. • Use of polymerising oils etc are discouraged at “hands-on” evenings as the oily rags (e.g. those used to apply linseed or tung oil finishes) present a fire risk if stored or disposed of improperly (i.e. by self-heating). If they are used, the oily rags should be spread out to minimise self-heating and stored in an appropriately-sized air-tight and heat-resistant container. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure the oily rags are removed from the premises and disposed of appropriately. • Burning tools (e.g. pyrography pen or blowtorch) should not be used without completing a separate risk assessment. <i>Continued on next page</i>

					- Members should be familiar with the location of fire-fighting media (e.g. sand, fire extinguisher) and call points. - Ensure escape route is kept clear at all times. - Particular attention should be paid when sharpening/grinding tools, as this typically generates hot sparks which may cause ignition of nearby flammable material.
Toxic species and wood allergies/sensitization	Everyone	3	5	High (15)	- Those in the vicinity of the lathe will typically receive significant exposure to wood dust(s) when turning (and particularly when sanding). Consider the use of a dust mask or other respiratory PPE. - Sanding should be minimised/avoided where possible to reduce exposure and where necessary, it is preferred to sand without the workpiece spinning to try and confine the dust to the local area, unless dust extraction is used. - Use of known toxic woods (e.g. Yew, Laburnum) should be avoided for “hands-on” sessions. - Use of woods that are known sensitisers (e.g. Cocobolo, Rosewood) should be avoided for “hands-on” sessions. - Open drinks receptacles (e.g. glasses, mugs) should be kept away from the lathe to minimise risk of dust ingestion.
Manual handling	Everyone	3	4	High (12)	- Movement of machinery (lathes) should be performed by at least two adequately-abled people to reduce risk for injury. - Lifting should be performed in line with good manual handling practices. - Use of protective footwear should be considered.

Risk assessment for operating a stall (sales of turned objects)

Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Slipping or tripping	Stallholders and Customers	3	3	Moderate (9)	• Maintain clear walkway both around and within the stall. • Ensure appropriate footwear is worn. • Cables should be safely routed away from walkways.
Electrical hazard	Stallholders and Customers	2	5	High (10)	• Ensure electrical equipment (e.g. lighting, power supply/extension lead, plugs and sockets) is in good working order and with no visible signs of damage. • Ensure equipment has a valid PAT sticker before use. • Avoid contact with water and ensure adequate shelter from adverse weather conditions (e.g. rain) • Turned items that are fitted with a mains electrical plug (e.g. lamp) must be PAT tested (and stickered) before sale.
Fatigue	Stallholders	2	3	Moderate (6)	• Take regular breaks e.g. by sharing the stall holding tasks with other OWC members. • Wear comfortable footwear and consider the need for seating (e.g. camping chair).
Items on display	Stallholders and Customers	4	2	Moderate (8)	• Ensure items on display are stable and not liable to fall and cause injury. • Consider height of items being displayed (e.g. heavier items placed lower down). • Ensure items are not densely packed on the display table to avoid them being knocked off accidentally or overloading the table.
Fire	Stallholders and Customers	1	5	Moderate (5)	• Ensure escape route is kept clear at all times. • OWC members should not smoke whilst operating the stall. •
Theft	Stallholders and Customers	3	4	High (12)	• Cash box to be kept secure and under supervision at all times. • OWC members to be vigilant and to alert Venue security and/or Police to any theft.
Food safety	Customers	4	5	Severe (20)	• Items intended to be used for food or drink should be made from a non-toxic timber and finished with a food-safe finish (typically “raw” oil, wax, or shellac – check the manufacturer’s data sheets) – cf EC regulation 1935/2004 and BS EN 1186 • All items should be labelled with species of wood and the finish used so that Stallholders can advise customers if the item is safe for contact with food. • Items made from known toxic wood species that could be used for food or drink (e.g. a goblet made from Yew) should be marked as “not suitable for food contact”.

Hazard	Who is affected	Probability	Impact	Risk level	Controls/comments
Fire	Stallholders and Customers	1	5	Moderate (5)	- Ensure escape route is kept clear at all times. - OWC members should not smoke whilst operating the stall.
Toy safety	Customers	4	5	Severe (20)	- Items intended to be used as toys should be made from a non-toxic timber and finished with a finish that complies with the appropriate standards (e.g. EN71-3). - Toys with small parts should be tested for risk of choking and marked as "not suitable for under 3 years old" if necessary. Such items should be kept out of reach of young children on the display stand.

Appendix:

Probability	Assigned value	Comment
Almost certain	5	Expected to happen
Likely	4	High chance of occurring
Moderate	3	Fair chance of occurring
Unlikely	2	Possible to happen but not common
Rare	1	Highly unlikely to happen

Impact	Assigned value	Comment
Critical	5	Life-threatening injuries or severe damage
Major	4	Serious injuries or substantial damage
Significant	3	Injuries that may require medical attention or notable damage
Minor	2	Minor injuries or slight damage
Insignificant	1	No injuries or damage

The **Risk level** is calculated as the product of **Probability** and **Impact** as indicated by the risk matrix.

Risk level	Assigned value	Comment
Severe	17 to 25	Immediate action required. High-priority measures must be taken to manage and mitigate the risk effectively
High	10 to 16	Significant attention needed. Action plans should be developed and implemented to mitigate the risk.
Moderate	5 to 9	Requires attention and potential action to reduce the risk
Low	1 to 4	Acceptable risk levels with no immediate action needed

Risk matrix		Impact (severity)				
		Insignificant	Minor	Significant	Major	Critical
Probability (likelihood)	Almost certain	5	10	15	20	25
	Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	Moderate	3	6	9	12	15
	Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	Rarely	1	2	3	4	5