



Safety First

Coldworking

Working with glass can be dangerous. Safety should be your first consideration. If you don't make it your first, failure to do so might make it your last.

Dust

Glass dust is a serious hazard. If you can't be sure glass dust is kept wet, wear a dust mask. Glass dust left on tools or glass after coldworking should be wiped or rinsed off. Funny thing about glass dust. It's the ultimate unwanted guest. Once it moves into your lungs, it refuses to ever leave.

Eyes

Always wear safety glasses. Fast moving machinery can easily launch a piece of glass into your eye. It's unlikely your local hospital emergency ward needs you to help generate more business for them.

Ears

Many coldworking machines are noisy enough to cause hearing damage. Ear protectors are a lot cheaper than hearing aids.

Hands

Take special care to keep your hands away from moving machinery. Keep all your fingers attached. You never know when you'll need that special one for that special wave for bad drivers.

Fingernails

Long fingernails can easily get caught in moving belts and discs. You'll survive having a nail pulled out but probably swear a lot when it happens.

Hair

Long hair should be tied back to keep it from getting caught. Getting your hair ripped out by getting caught in a machine is a plenty dumb way to experiment with baldness.

Jewelry

All jewelry should be removed when working with machinery to avoid it getting caught. Even if you don't mind losing the appendage it's attached to, at least consider the value of the jewelry.

Clothing

Avoid loose fitting clothing that can get caught in moving machinery – unless you plan to film yourself getting sucked into a machine by the sleeve as a submission for Funniest Home Videos.

Apron

Coldworking is often wet. Sometimes very wet. Wearing a rubber or vinyl apron is always a great idea. If you want to get soaking wet, go swimming or take a shower. For some coldworking tools, a full wet weather rain suit is recommended.

Electrical

When you are using any electrical equipment around water take special care to be sure it is safe to use wet. Tools like grinders, laps, and wet belt sanders have sealed motors that are specially made to work wet. Tools not designed to work wet can easily short out or deliver a serious electric shock if water gets into the electrical workings. This is NOT a do-it-yourself defibrillator. Be sure all tools are plugged into a GFI (Ground Fault Interruption) outlet.

When working around water, make sure all electrical cords have a "drip loop" that loops down below the outlet so any water that drips onto the cord will drip off and not into the electrical socket.

