

## **BE SAFE - Safety Tips of the Month** (Gary Guenther)

### **Lessons Learned ... distilled** from *Turning Injuries: Learning the Hard Way*

Back in April of 2003, a number of woodturners on the WoodCentral forum shared their safety-related experiences and mishaps. These were distilled down into an article that can be found at [www.woodcentral.com/cgi-bin/readarticle.pl?dir=turning&file=articles\\_129.shtml](http://www.woodcentral.com/cgi-bin/readarticle.pl?dir=turning&file=articles_129.shtml) If you have the time, these are very interesting to read in their entirety. If not, here are some excerpts relating the key points of the content.

1. CONSIDER what can go wrong before it does – EXPECT the unexpected
2. ALWAYS WEAR A FULL FACE SHIELD
3. Learn the CORRECT direction of movement for each tool
4. DON'T work when you are tired, preoccupied, or in a hurry
5. It is safer to turn ALONE to avoid distractions
6. Keep all tools SHARP and in proper working order
7. Never turn the lathe on before checking EVERYTHING, particularly the SPEED
8. Always use the SLOWEST possible speed – but for some applications, faster is better
9. REMOVE unneeded parts from the lathe – like the tool rest (when sanding) and the tail stock
10. Have no loose sleeves, and keep all sleeves AWAY from anything that can grab them
11. Stand OUT of the line of fire
12. Use tools only within their SAFE boundaries
13. Keep your face as far AWAY as possible
14. Move the tool slowly and CAREFULLY at all times and maintain complete concentration
15. Make SURE the tool doesn't go off the end of the tool rest
16. RECHECK the chuck periodically to make sure it is very tight
17. Don't try to make vessels TOO THIN; it doesn't pay
18. Do NOT go back to work on thin edges; do them and leave them
19. Try to cut with the LOWER half of any tool
20. Try to use an OVERHAND grip with the left hand to keep the fingers out from under the tool shaft in the event of a catch
21. Sand only on the LOWER LEFT side
22. Sanding by hand alone is dangerous – it is often better to use some kind of paper HOLDER
23. An INSIDE LIP on the top of a bowl is a dangerous place; use only proper hollowing tools there
24. Keep fingers AWAY from the grinder
25. Do NOT attach any materials to a piece and then turn it further (like a copper wire)
26. GLUE BLOCKS can be dangerous; working pieces may detach unexpectedly
27. Putting your hands inside a bowl for any reason is DANGEROUS

28. RING TOOLS can be dangerous and should be used with care

29. Sharp edges on turnings are SHARP