

Welcome to the school design studios! Before we start making awesome things, let's make sure we do it safely. First, when class starts, wait for the teacher's go-ahead before grabbing any tools and materials. Give the teacher the time to get everybody focussed and know what needs to happen. Of course, there is no running, no fooling around in the design studios. We're serious about safety!

Once you've completed all safety training, you'll be able to use some tools without a teacher present, but always ask first. For personal projects, outside of regular class time, you'll need permission and supervision.

Dress for success – and safety! When doing practical work, fasten loose clothing, tie your apron at the back, and make sure you're wearing closed-toed shoes. Sorry, Crocs fans, those are a no-go in the studio. As are slides and flip flops.

Sharp-ended tools such as chisels, scissors and even screw drivers are cool, but they need respect. Always carry them with the sharp end pointing down.

Let's talk some more about some hand tools! Coping saws are for curves, try squares keep things straight, claw hammers are used with nails, but mallets are not. Tools break sometimes, it happens. Just let the teacher know. And remember, no throwing tools to each other – ever!

Power tools are awesome, but safety first. There are safety zones indicated on the floor around these tools in all rooms. Only one person is allowed in the safety zone at any time. Each power tool has a specific safety training that goes with it. Don't use any of these tools without having passed the training and without asking permission of a design teacher or teaching assistant.

The studio's our shared space, so let's keep it clean. Everyone pitches in at the end of class during clean-up. Even if you were not involved in work at a particular station, you still help tidying up. The quicker we are, the more time we have to create next time! Tools have a home – put them back where they belong when you're done. If you don't know where something goes, ask.

Now that you know the rules, let's make some magic happen in the design studio!