

# Safety Push Sticks and Featherboards

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Safety & First Aid



Photo: Dschamal Berger — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Push\_stick\_2d.jpg)

Push sticks push narrow and short work safely through saws, keeping fingers away from blades, while featherboards apply even pressure to hold work against the fence and prevent kickback. Both are mandatory safe-working accessories for table saws, routers and planers.

## Key Features

- Push sticks with notched grips
- Featherboards with adjustable fingers
- Shop-made or commercial designs
- Mount clamps for fences and tables
- Colour-coded for visibility

## Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Rip narrow stock on the table saw safely
- Feed short pieces through jointers
- Hold work against fences on routers
- Prevent kickback on table saws

## Safe Operation

1. Use the push stick to guide the trailing end
2. Place featherboards ahead of and beside the blade
3. Clamp featherboards to press work to the fence
4. Keep both hands on the push stick or guard
5. Remove featherboards before clearing the table

## SAFETY NOTES

- Never rip narrow stock without a push stick
- Keep fingers at least 100 mm from the blade
- Check featherboard pressure does not bind the work
- Use the guard as well as push sticks
- Inspect sticks for damage before use

#### Maintenance & Consumables

---

- Keep push sticks near the machines they serve
- Check featherboard fingers for wear
- Repair or replace damaged sticks
- Store by each machine on a hook
- Keep spare push sticks in stock

#### Specification & Buying Notes

---

Shop-made push sticks from plywood are fine; commercial moulded ones add grip. Buy or make featherboards with strong clamps. Verify they fit the machine fences in use.