

Step-By-Step Application

Plunge Cutting with a Reciprocating Saw

Circular saws and jigsaws are often used to make a plunge cut in wood. A plunge cut is a cut made without the necessity of first creating an access hole. However, many people do not realize that a reciprocating saw can also be used to make plunge cuts. This is often done when cutting large, circular or irregular holes in a subfloor.

Step 1 Fit the saw with a stiff blade that is more than long enough to cut through the subfloor.

Step 2 Check beneath the entire cut area to make sure there are no obstructions such as wires, pipes, or structural members.

Step 3 Rest the saw's shoe against the subfloor. The teeth of the blade should be facing down towards the wood, and the blade should be in line with the cut line. Keep one hand on the saw's handle and use the other to steady its nose.

Step 4 Start the saw at a slow speed. Gradually bring the tip of the blade into contact with the wood. At first it will just scrape against the wood, but soon it will begin to cut.

Step 5 When you feel the blade penetrate the wood, increase the speed of the saw and gradually lift up on the handle while holding the saw's shoe firmly against the subfloor. This will pivot the saw into position.

Step 6 Straighten the saw until the flat surface of the shoe rests firmly on the subfloor. Complete each cut with the saw nearly perpendicular to the subfloor. Its shoe should be flat against the wood. Be sure to stand outside the cut line as you make the cut.