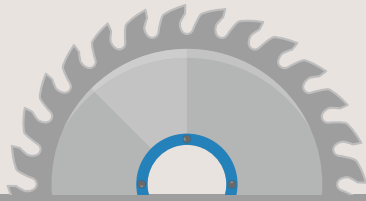


TABLE SAW INJURIES



54,850

table saw blade-contact injuries require medical treatment in the U.S. each year—150 every day.



About 4,000

are amputations which are often career-ending for carpenters and contractors—11 every day.



According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), once hospitalized, it costs society **\$500,000+** per person in medical expenses, lost income, and pain/suffering.



Over 85%

of injuries involve direct blade contact, usually fingers or thumbs. Most are cuts (66%), with amputations in 10–15% of cases. [Link](#)



The CPSC estimates that table saw injuries cost the United States **\$4.1 to \$4.2 billion** every year in medical expenses, lost wages, and long-term trauma.



In 2010, an estimated **700,000** table saws were in use, and it's believed that number doubled by 2022. [Link](#)

Active Injury Mitigation (AIM) Technology

- AIM Technology detects skin contact and stops the blade in <5 milliseconds.
- Reduces amputations to minor cuts—zero serious injuries in 20+ years of use.
- Can prevent 70–90% of blade-contact injuries
- Developed by Steve Gass in 1999.
- Licensing fee pledged by SawStop: 8% of the wholesale price of the saw.
- If AIM Technology is mandated, the estimated added cost to consumers would be:
 - Bench saw: \$37–\$57
 - Contractor saw: \$99–\$136
 - Cabinet saw: \$150
- The cost-benefit analysis overwhelmingly favors adoption of AIM technology with total consumer cost: \$30–\$35 million/year vs. \$4.2 billion in societal costs.

Current standards fail to protect consumers

- Most manufacturers still use a plastic blade guard—a decades-old, ineffective technology.
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in approximately 2/3 of injuries, the blade guard was removed.
- Approximately 1/3 of all injuries still occur when the blade guard is in use.

Why Safer Saws Make Sense: Benefits outweigh costs

- Estimated \$100 to add AIM safety technology to a saw.
- According to regulatory analysis, each table saw with automatic safety tech delivers an average of \$753 in benefits by reducing injury severity and medical costs.
- These numbers do not account for pain, suffering, or emotional trauma endured by victims and their families.



Opposition:

- National Association of Manufacturers warned the rule would raise prices, hurt sales, and force small manufacturers out, effectively creating a monopoly benefiting SawStop due to its patented tech.
- Power Tool Institute (Bosch, DeWalt, Makita, Ryobi).
- PTI continues to oppose safety mandates, echoing auto industry opposition to airbags.
- Argued that AIM is unproven, prone to false triggers, and could raise prices 25–100%.
- In the 15 years that PTI has resisted AIM requirements, an estimated 320,000 serious table saw injuries and 32,000 amputations have occurred.

National Consumers League Counterpoints

1. The requirement would be too costly."
 - The data show it's cost-beneficial to prevent tens of thousands of injuries annually.
 - Automakers once claimed airbags were too expensive; now they are standard.
2. "Blade guards work if people will use them."
 - Many cuts require blade guards to be removed.
 - Users often find them cumbersome and leave them off permanently.
 - AIM technology works silently and automatically, without interfering with use.
3. "Let consumers choose if they want to pay extra for safety."
 - Safety should not be a luxury. All consumers deserve protection, just as we require seat belts, airbags, and safety caps on medications for everyone.
 - Consumers and society already pay billions per year in injury-related costs.

Active Injury Mitigation (AIM) Technology

- [Safer table saws may get mandated, possibly preventing severed fingers: NPR](#)
- [How to save 10,000 fingers | NCPR News](#)
- [Table saw injuries: epidemiology and a proposal for preventive measures: PMC](#)
- [Protecting “Learned Hands”: Table Saw Injuries, the SawStop Saga, and How Our Design Defect Doctrine Is](#)
- [Disincentivizing Safety](#)
- [Federal Register: Safety Standard Addressing Blade-Contact Injuries on Table Saws](#)
- [9 Table Saw Injury Statistics & Facts: 2025 Update | House Grail](#)



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