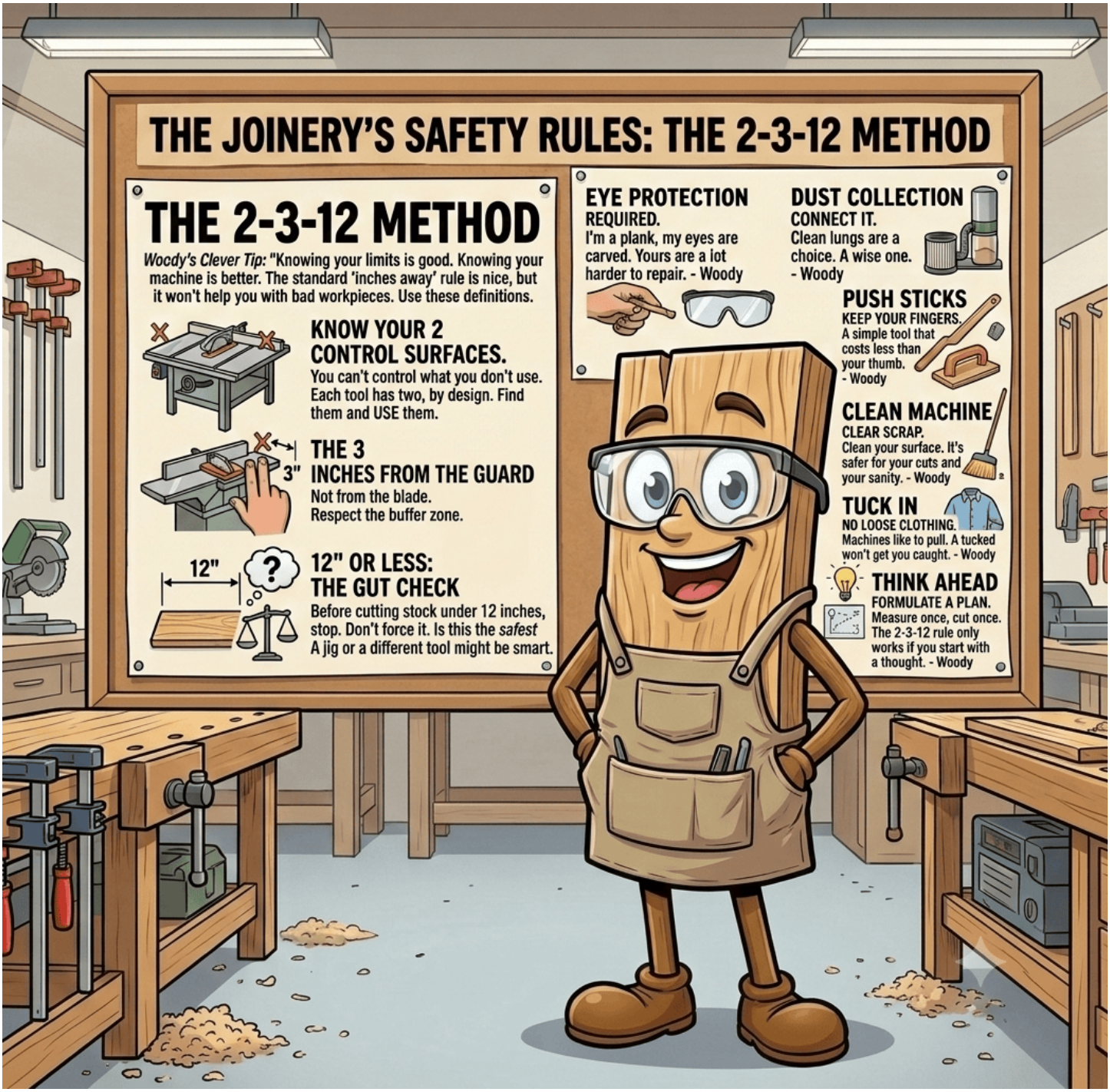
Shop Safety: The 2-3-12 Method

Skills · https://thejoinery.club/docs/skill-shop-safety-2-3-12/

Know your control surfaces, respect the guard, and gut-check anything under a foot.

Every machine in the shop will do exactly what you set it up to do — which is why setup, not the machine, is where safety lives. The 2-3-12 method is how we think about it at The Joinery: knowing your limits is good; knowing your machine is better.



The short version

- **2 — know your control surfaces.** You can't control what you don't use. Every tool has two by design — find them and use them.
- **3 — inches from the guard.** Not from the blade — from the guard. Respect the buffer zone.

- **12 — or less: the gut check.** Before cutting stock under 12 inches, stop. Don’t force it. A jig or a different tool might be the safer call.
- And always: eye protection on, dust collection connected, push sticks within reach, machine clear of scrap, loose clothing tucked in, and a plan formulated before the cut.

Where you will use it

Every project, every session, every machine. Read this one first. See What to Build Next.

Stuck?

Open office hours run Wednesdays and Saturdays. Bring the project, bring the board, bring the question.

Related