

SAFETY



How to Determine Safe Lathe Speeds

Appropriate lathe speed should allow the blanks to be turned with little or no vibration. Vibration is usually caused by the wood being unbalanced in weight, and is particularly common before the wood has been rough turned down to round. Low speeds are needed to reduce the vibration until the work becomes balanced, then speeds can be increased for more efficient turning.

Suggested lathe speeds for various diameters of spindle stock are given below. If there is a question regarding whether a lathe rpm is set too high, chances are it is. It is best to work on the side of caution. A slower lathe speed may require more time to remove the excess stock, but will allow for safety turning. Cutting principles remain constant regardless of lathe speed.

Suggested Lathe Speeds

Diameter of Stock	Lathe Speed
1" or less	3,000 rpm
1.5 "	2,500 rpm
2"	2,000 rpm
3"	1,500 rpm