

CWT NOVEMBER 2021 SAFETY REMINDER

ELECTRICITY AND YOUR LATHE.

Fatal electrocutions, while working with your lathe, are rare.

But electric shocks that fail to kill are much more common. Whether a shock is fatal often comes down to luck- it depends on whether there is a low resistance path for the current to ground.

If, for example, you are standing on a wet concrete floor or having your hands on a lathe that is grounded more current will pass to your body' and may kill you.

So it is wise to check your lathe electrical system occasionally. Make sure that all connections are secure, all wires and cord insulation are not damaged. Check for proper grounding, and don't forget to check lathe accessories, such as work lights wiring commonly used on your lathe.

Working vibrations have the tendency to loosen screws to electric wire connections and if ignored will lead to more serious consequences

Be warned that frayed insulation on black wire cords is not easily spotted by a superficial glance, you should be extra careful when doing this task

All sparks, smoke, and overheating coming from your lathe are signs that you have pushed you luck far enough.

Be safe and be a happy turner.

Safety hints, in part originated by Woodturning, by Terry Vaughan