

## Safety Guide: Guidelines for a Safe Duds to Dazzle Contest

TEXAS A&M

**EXTENSION** 

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General Guidelines	Keep your work station and the floor area around your work station clean.
	• Keep shoes on at all times – you don't want to step on stray pins or needles.
	Your work station must be clean before you leave.
	Make sure you have a first aid kit available for minor injuries.
Sewing Equipment	NEVER put pins in your mouth; use a pin cushion.
	Hand sharp objects handle first to another person.
	Walk with scissor blades pointing towards the floor.
	Keep shears, scissors, and rotary cutters closed when not in use.
	Seam rippers are sharp and can cut or puncture you.
	Cut away from you.
	Do not cut toward your other hand.
	• Do not attempt to catch a dropped pair of scissors. Let them fall and then pick them up.
Rotary Cutters	• Always cover your cutter blade with its protective cover when it's not in use; it's a good habit to form.
	Handle replacement blades with care.
	Cut away from your body.
	<ul> <li>Don't throw old blades directly in the trash can; put them in an old case or wrap in heavy paper.</li> </ul>
	Always use a ruler.
	Always use a rotary mat!
	• Keep fingers and knuckles away from the ruler's edge where the cut will be made.
	• Never have pins on your mat or try to cut fabric that has pins in it. As soon as you roll over a pin with your cutter, you will have a dead spot in the blade, which will not cut through the fabric.
	• Stand over your work when cutting, so that you are looking directly down on your ruler.
	Keep the blade vertical against the ruler, not tilted.
	• The blade side of the cutter, should be closest to the ruler.

Iron Safety	<ul> <li>Iron on a high, stable surface, such as an ironing board.</li> </ul>
	Make sure the electrical cord is out of reach.
	• Unplug the iron immediately after use, and place it out of the way.
	Only touch an iron on the handle!
	• Keep your fingers and face away from the steam and soleplate on the iron.
	Rest the iron on its heel, not flat down on its soleplate.
Hot Glue Gun	<ul> <li>Place a piece of paper or cardboard under the safety stand to catch hot glue drips and prevent damage to the underlying surface.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Always focus on the gluing task. If you need to look away from gluing, put the hot glue gun down.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Do not touch the heated nozzle of a hot glue gun.</li> </ul>
	Never leave a hot glue gun unattended.
Sewing Machine	• Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the owner's manual, with particular attention to safety procedures.
	<ul> <li>Use an appropriate speed when sewing.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Keep your fingers away from the needles and all moving parts!</li> </ul>
	• Don't lean your face too close to the machine – just in case a needle should break.
	Remove pins before sewing over them.
	<ul> <li>Unplug electrical equipment by the plug, never by the cord.</li> </ul>
	Never operate equipment that has frayed cords!
	<ul> <li>Place all electrical cords out of the way so they aren't a tripping hazard.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Make sure equipment is off before changing needles or any other parts.</li> </ul>
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