Ryobi Radial Arm Saws Recalled for Blade Detachment Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. (To access color photos of the following recalled products, see CPSC’s Web site at www.cpsc.gov.)

Name of Product: Ryobi Radial Arm Saws
Units: About 145,000
Hazard: Cracking of the plastic motor housing can cause the blade assembly to fall during operation, posing a risk of laceration to the operator or bystanders. The detachment may occur unexpectedly and without warning.
Incidents/Injuries: RMP has received five reports of detached blade assemblies, including four reports of lacerated fingers to the saw operators.
Description and Models: The recall involves all RA200 and RA202 radial arm saws. These are bench top models with 8 ¼-inch blades. Each unit has a data plate immediately behind the operator grip for the saw, which says “RYOBI 8 1/4" Radial Arm Saw” and either “RA200” or “RA202.”
Sold at: Home and hardware stores nationwide from 1986 through 1997 for between $200 and $300, and higher in some instances.
Manufactured in: The United States and Japan
Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using these radial arm saws and contact Ryobi customer service to arrange to return part of the saw for a payment of $75. No repair is available.
Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Ryobi Customer Service at (800) 525-2579 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET any day of the week, or visit the following Web site:
www.ryobi.com
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency’s jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than $700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC’s work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals – contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC’s hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC’s teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270 or visit CPSC’s Web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC’s Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

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Introduction

To participate in the recall and obtain your reimbursement check, you will need to remove the motor and carriage assembly from the arm of the radial arm saw. Then, as explained elsewhere, you will need to pack this in a box for pickup by FedEx. PLEASE DO NOT PACK OR SEND THE BLADE. The steps for removing the assembly are listed below. Several photographs or figures also are provided for reference.

Removal Steps

- Unplug power cord and refer to your Operator’s Manual for details on the following instructions:

1. Remove the Blade Safety Guard Assembly by loosening the Safety Guard Lock Knob. (see fig. 1)

2. Remove the Blade. (see fig. 1)

3. Disconnect the Control Cut cable (standard on RA202 models)

4. Loosen the Carriage Lock Knob located on the left side of the Radial Arm and then push the entire Carriage to the post. Tighten the Carriage Lock Knob to stabilize the Carriage. (see fig. 1)

5. Remove the two Phillips head screws which secure the Switch cover at the end of the Radial Arm (left and right side). Pull the Switch Cover out and down. (see fig. 1 & 2)

6. Remove the Guide Plate Cover under the Radial Arm which conceals the Power Cords connecting to the Switch. (see fig. 2)

7. Using wire cutters, cut the two Power Cords under the Radial Arm leading to the Switch. Remove the Switch Assembly. (see fig. 2)

8. Using wire cutters, cut the Control Cut Power Cord (standard on RA202 models) near the Miter Lock Knob located on the right side of the Radial Arm. (see fig. 3)

9. Using wire cutters, cut the remaining Power Cord from the Motor. (see fig. 3)

10. Loosen the Carriage Lock Knob. Remove the entire Motor and Carriage Assembly from the Radial Arm by pulling it off the arm.
Return Steps

We will arrange for FedEx to pick up the package – at no cost to you – at your home or another address you give us. After we receive the package and confirm that the correct parts were returned, then we will send a check to you for $75.

If you do not have a suitable box for the motor, then we will send one to you or arrange for FedEx to provide one.

After removing the Motor and Carriage Assembly, please:

- Insert the assembly, without the blade, into your box
- DO NOT PACK OR SEND THE BLADE
- Seal the box
- Leave the box out for pickup
- Dispose of the rest of the product, including the blade.

You can expect to receive your reimbursement payment in approximately 10 to 14 days after your shipment is received.

Figure 1

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Ryobi Motor Products Corp.
RA200 and RA202
Voluntary Safety Recall

FAQs

Why is the RA200 and RA202 (“Product”) being recalled?

Cracking of the plastic motor housing may cause the blade assembly to fall during operation; although the operator should be holding the assembly, in such event laceration is possible. The cracking may be caused by: the type of polycarbonate material used; the design of screw bosses used to hold the housing together; and/or the type of thread forming screws used.

How do I tell if my saw is the one being recalled?

Please look at the nameplate on your radial arm saw and see if it says RYOBI and either RA200 or RA202. There could be a hyphen between the letters and numbers. Also, you may compare your unit to a photograph of the Product at www.ryobi.com. In addition, the Product was sold new at retail outlets from approximately 1986 through 1997.

My Product looks fine; why should I participate?

We encourage you to participate in this recall even if your Product appears to be in good working order. The blade assembly may fall with little or no warning during use. The plastic housing may crack even if it looks fine. This presents a laceration risk to the operator and any bystanders.

How do I participate?

If it appears you have the Product, then you will need to detach the motor assembly, remove the blade and place the assembly into a sealed box. PLEASE DO NOT PACK OR SEND THE BLADE. We will arrange for FedEx to pick up the package – at no cost to you – at your home or another address you give us. After we receive the package and confirm that the correct parts were returned, then we will send a check to you for $75.

The steps and instructions for removing the motor are fairly simple and can be viewed at www.ryobi.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, then we will fax or mail the instructions to you.
Does it cost me anything to send my Product in?
No. We will arrange for the shipment at no cost to you.

Will I just get a coupon for another similar product?
No. You will receive a check payable to you in the amount of $75 to use however you like.

How long will it take me to receive my payment?
You can expect to receive your reimbursement payment in approximately 10 to 14 days after your shipment is received.

What part of the Product do I send back?
The motor assembly which is attached to the arm. You will need to remove that from the arm and then remove the blade from the assembly. PLEASE DO NOT PACK OR SEND THE BLADE. The steps and instructions for removing the motor are fairly simple and can be viewed at www.ryobi.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, then we will fax or mail the instructions to you.

How come I am not dealing directly with Ryobi Motor Products Corp.?
Ryobi Motor Products Corp. sold its power tool business in 2000 and has ceased doing business. Therefore, as part of its dissolution process, it has arranged for another company to administer implementation of the voluntary recall.