HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

CUTTING CONCRETE

With a 7-1/4" circular saw

Homeowners who do their own repairs are often faced with cutting out an area of concrete (in preparation for sidewalk replacement, repair to basement drain lines, etc.) If you don't have access to a concrete saw, a circular saw can help you do this job, but serious injury can result if you do not use this tool properly.

SAFETY FIRST

When cutting concrete, it's important to remember several safety tips.

DO

DO	**Purchase a masonry-type cut-off blade** (available at hardware stores, lumberyards, building supply stores, etc.) These blades wear down rather quickly; if you're doing several cuts, you may wish to buy some extra blades. If you save your receipts, you can probably return any unused blades when you're done.
DO	**Wear a protective face shield** (preferably) or at least safety glasses. The type of blade you'll be using is very brittle and disintegrates easily. Since the blade turns so fast, the pieces can fly off at high speed and be **very dangerous**. In addition, the small stones that make up the concrete can fly up and hit you as you cut.
DO	**Use a chalk line to mark where you'll cut the concrete.** You'll want to cut a straight line to lessen the stress on the blade.
DO	**Make several shallow cuts, rather than one deep cut.** This way, you'll prolong the life of the blade and lessen the chance of that blade breaking up.
DO	**Use the saw in a position where you're comfortable and secure.** If you're off balance, you'll be worrying about keeping your footing, and less aware of using the saw safely.

DON'T

DON'T	**Wear loose clothing** that can get caught in the saw blade.
DON'T	**Force the saw.** Let the tool cut at its own rate, with only enough pressure to keep it on course.

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

WWW.HRRC-CH.ORG | +1.216.381.6100 | 2520 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121 |
© 2026, Home Repair Resource Center