

TOOTH SET TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

CUTTING EDGE SAWMILL
Common signs, possible causes,
and what to check.

SHARP TEETH AREN'T ENOUGH

Sharpening restores the cutting edge. Tooth setting controls kerf clearance and helps the blade track straight. A blade can be sharp and still cut poorly if the set is too light, too heavy, or uneven.

COMMON SIGNS YOU MAY NOTICE

Blade pulls to one side The blade drifts left or right instead of tracking straight.	Wavy or uneven lumber Boards rise and fall or show inconsistent thickness.
Rough cut surface The lumber looks rougher than normal even with a sharp blade.	Blade heats up quickly Extra friction or poor kerf clearance can create excess heat.
More feed pressure needed You have to push harder to keep the cut moving.	One side wears faster Teeth on one side show more wear than the other.

WHAT DIFFERENT SET PROBLEMS CAN LOOK LIKE

TOO LITTLE SET • Kerf may be too narrow. • Blade body may rub in the cut. • Heat can build quickly. • Cutting may slow or wander.	TOO MUCH SET • Kerf may be wider than necessary. • More wood is turned into sawdust. • Cut surface may be rougher. • The blade can require more power.	UNEVEN SET • Blade may pull to one side. • Wavy or inconsistent cuts can appear. • Tooth wear may be uneven. • Left/right set should be checked for consistency.
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BEFORE BLAMING THE TOOTH SET

Check these basics first: blade tension • blade guides • wheel alignment/tracking • feed speed • blade sharpness • pitch, dirt, or damage.

QUICK REFERENCE

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE SET ISSUE	WHAT TO CHECK
Blade drifts or pulls	Uneven set	Left/right set consistency; tension; guides
Blade heats quickly	Too little set	Kerf clearance; rubbing; pitch buildup
Wide kerf / extra sawdust	Too much set	Set amount; tooth damage; feed/load
Wavy or rough lumber	Uneven or incorrect set	Set uniformity; blade sharpness; alignment

SHARPENING AND SETTING WORK TOGETHER

At Cutting Edge Sawmill, sharpening and setting are included together so the blade is serviced as a complete cutting system.

cuttingedgesawmill.com
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