

SAFE LATHE OPERATING SPEEDS

According to Stewart Batty, the fastest your wood should pass by the tool rest is 40 mph. Faster than that does little to remove waste wood, creates excessive heat, and can create a dangerous environment for the wood-turner with the wood breaking apart.

Here is a simple scale of wood diameter to maximum RPM of the lathe.

4"----3400 RPM

5"----2690 RPM

6"----2250 RPM

7"----1920 RPM

8"----1700 RPM

9"----1500 RPM

10"---1340 RPM

11"---1200 RPM

12"---1111 RPM

13"---1030 RPM

14"---960 RPM

15"---900 RPM

16"---845RPM

17"---800 RPM

18"---760 RPM