

Pruning Chainsaw Safety & Cut-Size Guide

A companion guide for small cordless pruning saws such as the DEWALT 20V MAX 8-inch DCCS623B. This guide teaches safe habits. It does not replace your saw's official manual. Always read the manual first.

1. Before every cut

- Battery seated and charged; lock-off switch working; chain tension checked.
- Bar oil topped up, cap tight. Never cut with a dry chain.
- Safety glasses, gloves, long sleeves, and sturdy boots on. Keep bystanders and pets away.
- Check the branch for wire, nails, or hidden metal before you cut.

2. Cut-size guide

Branch size	Advice
Under 2 inches	Easy work for a mini pruning saw. One steady pass.
2 to 5 inches	The sweet spot for an 8-inch pruning saw. Cut with care.
5 to 6 inches	Slow, patient cuts only. Let the saw do the work.
Over 6 inches	Use a larger saw. A mini saw is the wrong tool here.
Overhead or on a ladder	Do not cut overhead from a ladder. Use a pole saw or call a pro.

3. Chain care and oil

- A sharp chain cuts fast and throws chips. A dull chain throws dust and strains the motor. Sharpen or replace it.
- Keep the bar groove clean. Clear sawdust from the oil outlet so oil can flow.
- Oil can weep in storage on gravity-fed oilers. Do not overfill. Keep the cap tight and store the saw on a tray.
- Drain the oil if you will not use the saw for weeks.

4. Battery sizing

- A 2.0 Ah battery suits short pruning jobs. A 4.0 or 5.0 Ah battery suits longer sessions.
- Carry a spare battery for storm cleanup. Stop when the saw strains; a tired battery cuts slowly.
- Store batteries cool and dry, away from heat. Charge only with the maker's charger.

5. What NOT to cut

- Do not cut ground-level roots in soil. Dirt dulls the chain fast.
- Do not cut metal, plastic, masonry, or treated posts with hidden nails.
- Do not cut limbs over power lines. Call the utility or a tree service.
- Do not force the saw through a pinch. Release pressure, wedge the cut open, and retry.

6. After the job

- Remove the battery. Fit the bar sheath. Brush off sawdust and sap.
- Wipe the bar and chain. Check tension once more before storage.
- Store the saw dry, locked away from children.

Note: This guide is general advice for small pruning saws. Your saw's manual is the final word on safe use. If a job feels unsafe, stop and call a professional.