



Channel Cutting Guide

Safety Equipment

Before cutting any channel, it is essential that the correct Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is used. This should include the use of Safety Glasses or Masks, Safety Gloves, Safety Shoes or Boots, Ear Defenders and Safety Clothing e.g. Overalls.

How to cut KWIKSTRUT channels

Hacksaw

For one off or just a few cuts a Hacksaw can be used. The lower T.P.I. (Teeth per Inch) should be used so that the swarf does not clog the blade. Most used are the 18 TPI and 24TPI blades. Disadvantages include the difficulty in obtaining a square cut. It is also time consuming and hard work.

Electric Portable Band Saw or Hacksaw.

Electric Portable Band Saws or Hacksaws can also be used. A separate Vice would be required to clamp the Channel as both hands would be needed to hold the Saw.

Floor Standing Power Saw

These Machines will give a square cut and are easy to use. But they are floor standing and can be heavy. Not ideal for use on site.

Angle Grinder

An Angle Grinder could be used but it is hard to get a square straight cut. A separate vice would be required to clamp the Channel as both hands would be needed to hold the Angle Grinder.

Chop Saw

One of the best ways to cut channels is to use a Chop Saw (also known as Metal Cut Off Saws or Abrasive Disc Saws). There are two variants of this Saw, one that uses an Abrasive Disc and the other uses a TCT Disc (Tungsten Carbide Tipped). The Abrasive Disc type gives a lot of burrs and shoots out many sparks and debris. On some sites you will need a special permit or where there is a high risk of fire they may be banned. The TCT bladed Saw produces no sparks reducing the risk of fire and there will be less burrs. The TCT bladed Saw cuts through like an Electric Miter Saw cuts through wood. The Channel is held squarely in a vice and the Blade is brought down cutting through squarely each time.

Deburring

Deburring Can be carried out by Wire Brush, Hand File, Hand Chamfering/Deburring Tool, Linishing or Abrasive Wheel.

End Protection after Cutting

After Cutting Galvanized Channel the ends will become exposed and lose their protection. If required a coating of Galvanized (Zinc Rich) paint can be applied to prevent corrosion.