

Soff Cut / Early Entry Buying Guide

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What is Soff Cut or Early Entry?

- Soff-Cut offers a patented and distinctive Ultra Early Entry system for concrete sawing.

- The Soff-Cut brand is trademarked by Husqvarna, distinguishing it from competitors who refer to similar processes as “Early Entry” cutting.

- Blades designed for early entry are optimized for freshly poured concrete, compatible with both Soff-Cut and other early entry saws.

- Utilizing Soff-Cut blades aims to significantly reduce the potential for random cracks in concrete, ensuring a smoother finish.

- The efficiency of Soff-Cut blades, coupled with their capability for same-day cutting, positions them as the premier choice for processing green concrete.

What is the “Green Zone”?

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The “Green Zone” refers to the critical time period shortly after concrete is poured and starts to set, during which it’s optimal to make cuts using early entry blades. This time frame is vital because as concrete sets and hydrates, it develops internal stress. By cutting during the Green Zone, these stresses are relieved, preventing the concrete from developing cracks, which could compromise the structural integrity and aesthetics.

Soff-Cut saws and their corresponding blades are engineered specifically for cutting within this Green Zone, offering a strategic solution to control joint placement in newly set concrete.

This innovative cutting technique, characterized by an up-cutting blade rotation and a spring-loaded skid plate, maintains consistent pressure on the surface. This design not only minimizes the risk of random cracking but also ensures a precise and clean cut, preventing chipping and spalling at the cut edges.

What if You Miss the “Green Zone”?

Worry not, there are blades for Next-Day Concrete Cutting
These blades are designed specifically for early entry designed for Soff-Cut Saws, used for NEXT DAY cutting. That is when concrete has left the “green zone”.

Choosing the Right Early Entry Blade

1.What Soff-Cut Saw are you using?

Identify the specific Soff-Cut saw model in to ensure compatibility with the blade you plan to purchase. Each saw model may require a different blade type or size, and using the correct blade ensures optimal performance and safety.

2. Are you cutting concrete the same day you poured it?

This affects the choice of your diamond blade. Early entry cutting, typically done within the first few hours after pouring, requires a specific type of diamond blade designed for green concrete. These blades are engineered to minimize chipping and raveling, providing a clean cut without causing undue stress on the still-curing concrete.

3. What type of concrete are you cutting?

The composition of the concrete, such as aggregate type and hardness, plays a significant role in selecting the appropriate diamond blade. Blades are designed to tackle different concrete types, from soft to hard, each engineered to cut effectively without excessive wear.
Understanding the concrete's composition can help you choose a blade that cuts efficiently.

Steps to Breaking in Your Soff Cut Saw Blade

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1, Securely attach your blade to the saw, ensuring it is properly positioned within the skid plate.

2. Operate your Soff-Cut saw at half the regular RPM while making an initial cut through the material for a distance of 15-30 feet.

3. Employing this method lets the blade gradually "warm up" facilitating the exposure of diamonds within the blade's segments.

4. After the initial phase, increase the saw's speed to its full RPM and proceed with your standard cutting operation.

What Makes Soff Cut Blades Different?

Triangular Arbor

All Soff Cut blades feature the distinctive triangular arbor configuration. This enables quick and easy blade changes. Several brands have "alternate" arbors that will fit Soff Cut saws.

Skid Plate

Skid Plates use a unique blade block design that keeps pressure on the surface of the concrete while the blade cuts. However unlike other saws the design allows the skid plate to always maintain proper pressure on the concrete, ensuring a quality cut.
Changing the skid plate when changing the blade reduces the risk of chipping and spalling.

Color of the Blade



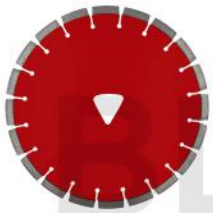
Purple Blade

Designed for ultra-hard aggregate and non-abrasive sand, making it ideal for the toughest cutting environments.
Utilizes a soft bond to ensure efficient cutting through hard materials without rapid wear.



Green Blade

Continuous rim blades have a continuous smooth edge that enables precise, chip-free cuts, particularly on materials prone to chipping. This design makes them ideal for cutting materials such as porcelain tile, granite, and marble.
These blades cut slower than segmented and turbo blades but offer the cleanest cut.



Red Blade

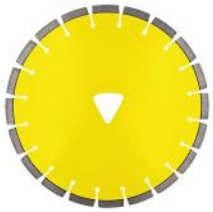
Turbo blades have a continuous rim with a serrated edge, enhancing cutting speed and ensuring a smooth cut. This versatility allows them to cut various materials like granite, marble, stone, brick, and pavers.
These blades cut faster than segmented blades while still providing a relatively clean cut, closer to what you'd expect from a continuous rim blade.

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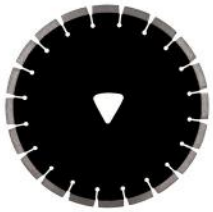
Orange Blade

Segmented turbo blades combine the design aspects of both segmented and turbo blades, featuring segments that have a serrated, turbo-like edge. Suitable for cutting hard, dense materials quickly while still achieving a relatively smooth finish. Most used for Hard Brick, Pavers, and Concrete Block.
This design provides the fast cutting speed of a turbo blade with the added cooling and debris removal benefits of a segmented blade.



Yellow Blade

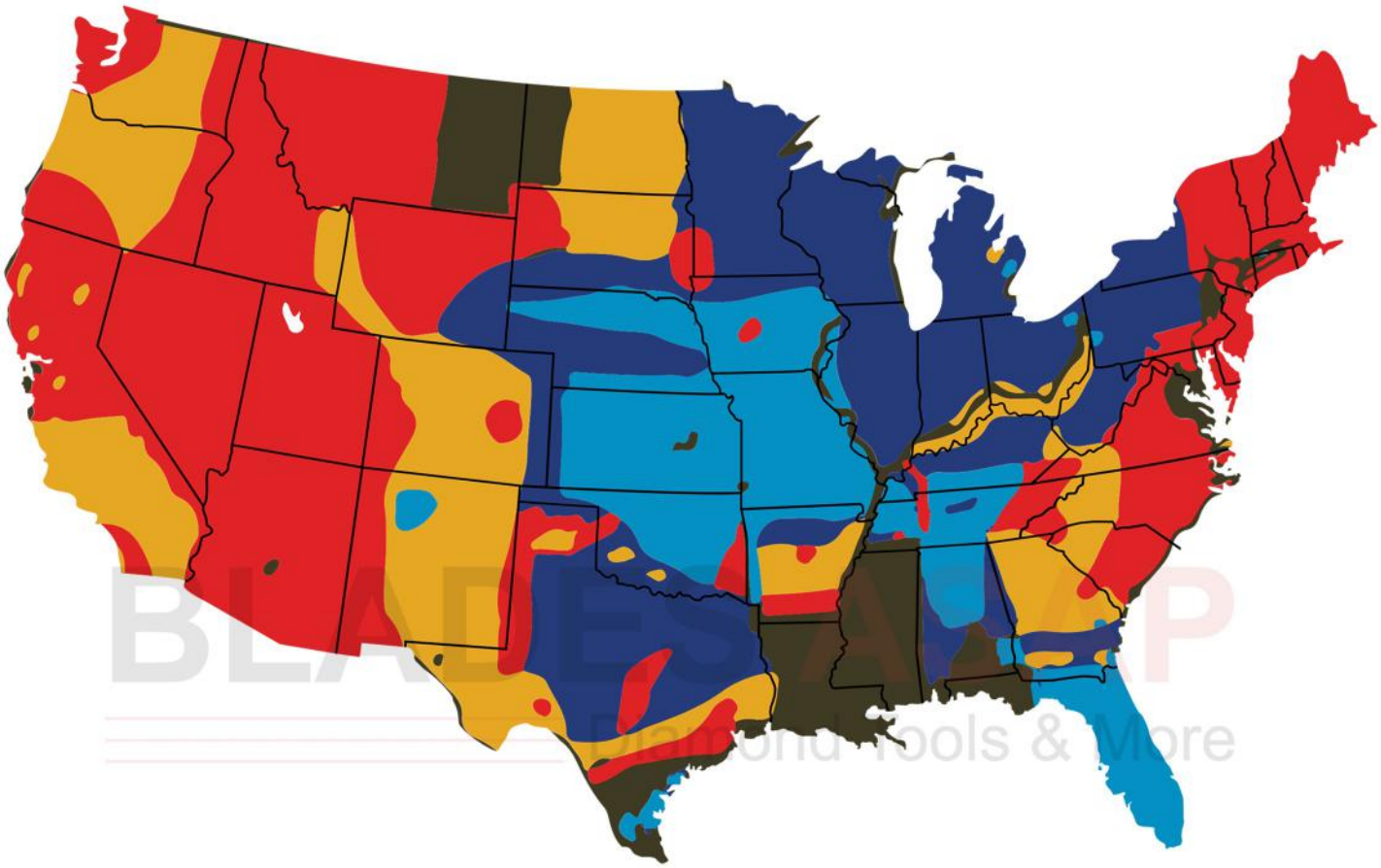
Best for medium to soft aggregate and abrasive sand, designed for materials that are not overly hard.
These blades cut faster than segmented blades while still providing a relatively clean cut, closer to what you'd expect from a continuous rim blade.
Features a hard bond to combat the abrasiveness of the sand and extend the blade's lifespan.



Black Blade

Crafted for soft aggregate and abrasive sand, suitable for softer materials where fast cutting is prioritized.
Uses a hard bond to maintain effective cutting in abrasive conditions, ensuring longevity and performance.

US Aggregate Hardness Map



Ultimate Rule for Diamond Blade

- Use a Harder Bond to Cut Soft Material
- Use a Soft Bond to Cut Hard Material

Soft	Medium Soft	Medium	Medium Hard	Hard
Soft Limestone	Medium Soft	Medium Hard River Rock	Granite	Hard Chert
Sandstone	Pit Gravel	Gravel	Slate	Hard Quartz
Dolomite Limestone	Limestone	Medium Traprock	Traprock	Flint Rock
Siliceous	Dolomite	Decomposed Granite	Basalt	Hard River RockIpsum
Soft Shell			Quartzite	

*The referenced materials are the primary aggregates found in each respective region, while various other types of aggregates are found nationwide.

Early Enty Blades Do's & Don'ts

DO's

Select the right Soff Cut Early Entry Blade for the aggregate you"re cutting

Choosing the correct blade for the specific aggregate type is crucial as different regions have varying aggregate hardness and abrasiveness.
The right blade ensures efficient cutting, optimal wear rate, and longevity.

Use the early entry blade within the "Green Zone"

The "Green Zone" refers to the optimal timing for cutting newly poured concrete to prevent cracking and ensure clean cuts. Using the blade within this time frame maximizes the effectiveness of the early entry system, ensuring the concrete's structural integrity and aesthetic appearance

Properly break in your Soff Cut blade and warm it up

Properly breaking in and warming up the blade prepares it for optimal performance, ensuring the diamonds are exposed correctly and the blade cuts efficiently.
This initial step extends the blade's lifespan, maintains its cutting speed, and ensures a consistent quality of cut throughout its use.

Make sure the skid plate is securely attached

The skid plate is integral to the Soff Cut system, helping to stabilize the blade and ensure precise cuts. A securely attached skid plate prevents vibrations and ensures accurate alignment.

DON'Ts

Use the wrong aggregate blade

Utilizing an incorrect blade for the aggregate can lead to inefficient cutting, increased wear on the blade, and potentially damage the material being cut.

Use the early entry blade outside the "Green Zone"

Cutting outside the "Green Zone" diminishes the benefits of the Soff Cut system, potentially leading to uncontrolled cracking and suboptimal cuts.
For cutting outside this specific time frame, other types of concrete blades are more suitable and designed to handle the concrete at different stages of curing.

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Jump right into action

Immediately using the blade at full speed without a proper warm-up can lead to premature wear, inefficient cutting, and potential damage to the blade. Take the time to properly break in the blade

Use the blade on a non-Soff Cut Saw

Soff Cut blades are specifically designed for use with Soff Cut saws, which are optimized for early entry cutting. Using these blades on different saws can potential damage to the blade or saw, and could pose safety risks.



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