

Safety Spotlight

Practical tips to keep you safe

Machine Guarding

Machine parts that move to cut, drill, press or form materials can seriously injure workers. Contact with moving parts can cause amputations, fractures, cuts and other serious injuries. To protect workers, machine guards must be used on all machinery with moving parts to prevent hands, arms, and all other areas of the body from coming into contact with moving parts, flying chips or sparks.

Machine Operation Guidelines:

- Inspect all equipment before use. Do not operate if it is damaged or has not been properly serviced.
- Immediately report any machine with a missing or disable guard to your supervisor.
- Follow all machine operating instructions; never skip steps.
- Know how to turn equipment on and off before operating.
- Always wear eye and face protection to prevent injuries from flying chips or sparks.
- Never remove, disable, or de-activate machine guards and safety devices.
- Do not place your hands under, around, or through a guard when working with or near a machine with moving parts.
- Use push sticks, or feather boards to assist feeding materials into machines such as table saws.
- Never use machines with moving parts unless you have been trained to do so.



Guard the Following:

- Point of operation – where machine performs work on the material being processed)
- Ingoing nip points – where moving parts contact or come close to other parts
- Rotating parts –rollers, grinding wheels, or circular blades
- Blades and other cutting parts
- Pinch point or similar moving parts
- Power transmission - pulleys, belts, connecting rods, flywheels, gears, couplings, spindles, cams, cranks and chains

Types of Guards:

- **Fixed** – permanent part of the machine
- **Adjustable** – allow flexibility for variety of materials
- **Interlocking** – cuts off power to machine when moved
- **Self-adjusting** – barrier moves with size of stock