



Machine Guarding

Machinery accidents result in 18,000 amputations, lacerations, crushing injuries and abrasions every year. But they can be prevented with proper safeguards.

■ **Danger areas, motions**

- Point of operation – where work is performed on material
- Power of transmission device – all components of system that transmit energy
- Operation controls – all moving parts of machine
- Rotating motion (including in-running nip points)
- Reciprocating motion
- Transverse motion (back-and-forth, up-and-down)

■ **Effective guards should:**

- Be strong and secure
- Prevent physical contact
- Protect from falling objects
- Create no hazards
- Not interfere with work
- Not prevent safe lubrication

■ **Guard types:**

- Fixed – permanently attached
- Interlocked – shut off power when guard is open
- Adjustable – can be moved to accommodate smaller or larger pieces of material
- Self-adjusting – once material is removed, guard resets to normal position

■ **Protect yourself:**

- Always check for hazards
- Never remove or tamper with guard while machine is running
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothes or jewelry; tie back long hair
- Report any problems right away – don't try to fix it yourself