

Machine Guards Protect You and Your Co- Workers

Most of the heavy machinery you work with is probably equipped with safety guards. Guards are designed to protect you and your co-workers from numerous dangers, including moving or sharp machine parts, flying sparks or particles, and hot surfaces. Conscientious operation and maintenance of machine guards will keep them working as your front-line defense against serious injury.

Protect Your Hands and Arms

Guards help protect your arms, hands and fingers, which are especially vulnerable to injury from a variety of machinery parts: cutting edges, punching and shearing parts, rotating and in-running shafts, and pointed objects. The machine you use should have guards if there is any way your hands could come in contact with the point of operation or any moving parts. There should be no way for your hands and fingers to get in from any angle, and the guard itself should not have any sharp surfaces or pinch points. Common guarding methods include enclosure guards, interlocking devices, remote control, electronic safety devices, removal devices, moving barriers and two-handed tripping devices.

Your Role in Safety

You play an important part in ensuring that guards do the job for which they were designed. When operating machines, follow these rules:


- Never remove or bypass a guard or other safety device.
- Never operate a machine if a guard is missing, modified or not working correctly.
- If a guard must be removed for maintenance, make sure it is replaced and working properly before operations resume.

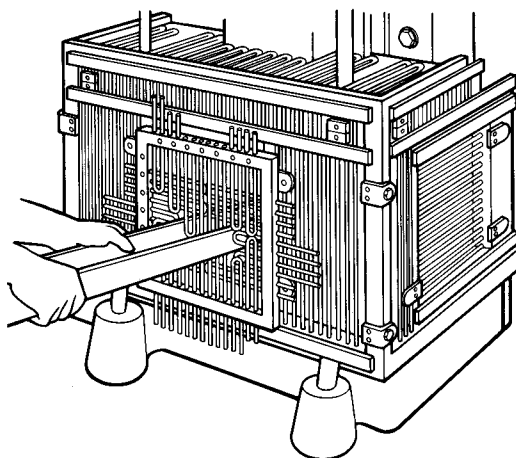
Safe and Productive

Sometimes it may appear that a machine guard interferes with your productivity. This is no excuse to remove or modify a guard. Although a machine may work faster without a guard, you certainly won't if you injure yourself. Talk with your supervisor if you're worried about meeting production goals, or if you believe the guard should be changed to make it both safe and productive.

Work With Guards,

And They'll Work for You

Guards are designed to protect you. Let them do their job, and they'll help you do yours more safely. 



Guards, such as this adjustable guard on a power press, protect your hands, fingers and arms from dangerous moving parts.