

Machine Guarding

Machine guarding is used to prevent contact between the machine and the operator or between flying objects (from the machine) and the operator. Moving parts on a machine can create hazards such as points that crush, pinch, shear, wrap, pull-in or throw objects. These hazards can cause debilitating injuries to your fingers, hands, arms or feet. Machine guards should prevent contact with machine parts that may cause injury, be secured in place, create no new hazard and should not interfere with the machine operation.

How to protect yourself

- Tie hair back and do not wear loose clothing or jewelry near machinery.
- Always wear appropriate PPE for the machine.
- Always keep your hands and other body parts clear of moving parts when starting up any machinery or tools.
- Guards must be secured to the machine, if possible, or to other fixed objects.
- Never remove a guard or other safety device except for authorized servicing purposes. Complete Lockout/Tagout before removing a guard. Make sure that it or an equivalent guard has been re-installed before returning the machine or equipment to normal operation.
- Before servicing, block the movement of the belt and/or pulley with something like a wooden block or a clamp to secure it in place to prevent reverse action of the system. Make sure the block or clamp is strong enough to withstand any tension in the belt.
- Report injuries to your supervisor immediately.
- Report unguarded moving parts to your supervisor.

Training

Don't operate a machine or equipment until you've been trained on the operating procedures, hazards and safeguards and have been assigned to do so by your supervisor.

Resources

Contact EHS if you have any concerns or notice unguarded equipment: 303-492-6025 or ehs@colorado.edu

A helpful 6 minute video to watch on Skillsoft is "Global Safety Short: Machine Guarding Principles".

