

Using Machine Guards for Safety

Most of the machinery you work with is probably equipped with safety guards. Guards are designed to protect you from numerous dangers, including moving or sharp machine parts, flying sparks or particles and hot surfaces.

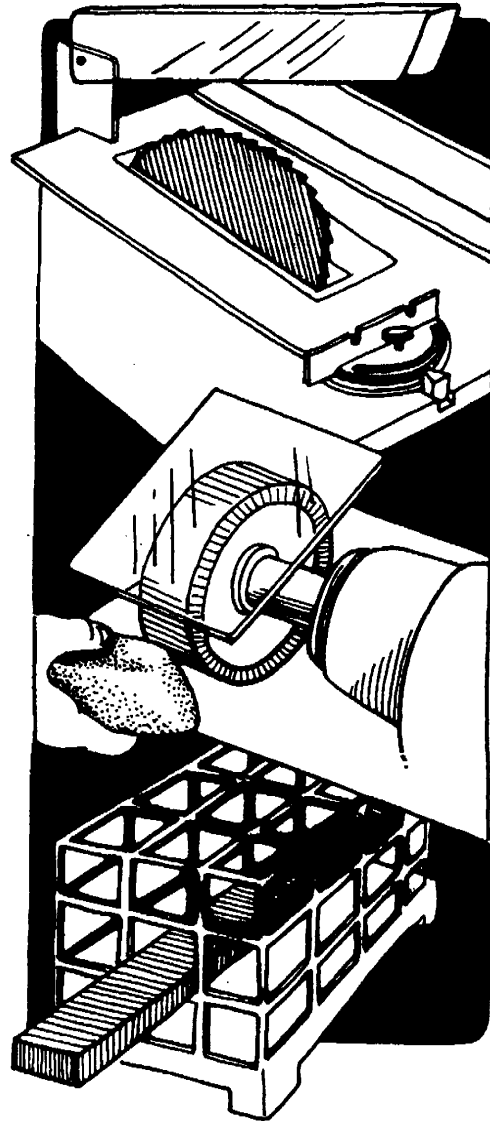
Guards help protect your arms, hands and fingers, which are especially vulnerable to injury from a variety of machinery parts: cutting edges, punching and shearing parts, rotating and in-running shafts and pointed objects.

The machines you use should have guards if there's any way your hands could come into contact with the point of operation or any moving parts. There should be no way for your hands or fingers to get in from any angle, and the guard itself should not have any sharp surfaces or pinch points. Common guarding methods include:

- ✓ enclosures.
- ✓ interlocking devices.
- ✓ remote control.
- ✓ electronic safety devices.
- ✓ removal devices.
- ✓ moving barriers.
- ✓ two-handed tripping devices.

Machine Guard Safety Rules

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



WORKING WITH GUARDS

There's never any good reason to remove or modify a guard on a machine that you're using. Even if you think you can work faster without the guard, it's there to protect you and help you do the job more safely. Talk to your supervisor if you're worried about meeting production goals or if you think the guard should be changed.