

Machine Guarding

Machine guarding is a practice utilized to reduce employee exposure to injuries in the workplace. Follow these tips to reduce your exposure to risk caused by moving machinery parts.

- **Review the machine specific guide** or product manual that identifies hazards, guards or controls, Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) procedures, maintenance schedule, and affected person(s).
- **Determine the Point of Operation.** This is where material can be manipulated into the desired shape by cutting, boring, grinding, etc. The moving parts are near the point of operation.
- **Identify operating controls** such as physical barriers, physical distance, presence sensing, light curtains, A and B gates, and two hand trips/control. The E-stop button is also a control to stop a machine's cycle.
- **Proper use of controls** is vital to safe operation of the machine and preventing injuries. The controls are designed to operate the machine without putting you in harm's way.
- **Inspect your machine or tools before operation.** This includes any breaks or periods where the machine or tools were left unsupervised. Purposely look for LOTO devices and other employees who may be affected by the machine start up.
- **Contact your manager or supervisor** if the guards have been removed, altered, or do not function properly.
- **Wear suitable clothing** that cannot be caught in moving parts. This includes hair, rings, watches, earrings, or other jewelry.

