

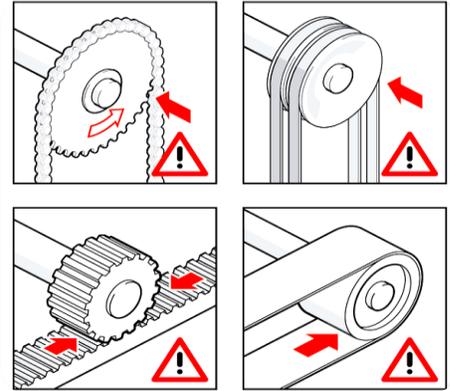


Pinch Point

A pinch point is any point where you can catch a part of your body between moving parts of machinery, equipment or materials.

Protect from pinch points...

- Machine guards are designed to protect you from pinch points. Always keep them in place, even if it slows down productivity. Replace them if they malfunction.
- Always use machinery correctly. Shut a machine down before trying to correct a malfunction or jam and be sure to use the correct lockout/tag out procedures.
- Use push-sticks and jigs whenever possible, rather than your fingers, to position materials being machined.
- Follow safety procedures when moving heavy or bulky material.
- Avoid horseplay on the job.
- Avoid loose clothing or jewelry that can get caught in pinch points. Keep long hair restrained.



To most of us a pinch doesn't sound too serious. A pinch on the cheek or a friendly pinch for fun is one thing, but the pinches received on the job are something else. For example , we listed " a worker was crushed to death against a wall by a huge truck that was backing up. That was a pinch point accident"

- It is dangerous to work around machinery that has oscillating or reciprocating parts or elements. Of course, most of these areas are guarded, but in cases when guards are removed to do work or make adjustments, be sure the parts cannot move or be moved. Tag out or lock out the equipment and be sure the machinery cannot cycle if it is off balance or activated by accident.
- There are many common place things that are potential pinch points, like heavy steel doors or heavy covers for bins and hopper, and often there is no way to guard these hazards. Care is your only safeguard. Even extension ladders can create serious pinch points; the rungs sliding past each other can catch fingers, hands and feet.

The machinery where a person works with is designed for safety and has guards to protect from accidents and injuries. But safety guards are not foolproof. Every year, too many workers are seriously injured when a hand, arm or foot gets caught in or between machines. These accidents are typically the result of carelessness or inattention and can be prevented.

HOW IT HAPPENS

Large or small moving parts, such as those found in shrink-wrapping machines, conveyor belts, forklifts or electric platforms on trucks, have the potential to catch and mangle fingers, hands and feet. Injuries occur when workers reach into running machines; when moving parts snag clothes, jewelry or hair; or when power comes on unexpectedly. These incidents are more likely to occur when workers are under mental or physical stress, trying to meet a stocking or shipping deadline or are improperly trained. Unsafe equipment or equipment with inadequate or missing guards is also to blame.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Follow all instructions for machinery and tool use. If you are unfamiliar with a machine, get proper training before using it.
- Avoid wearing loose gloves, loose sleeves or cuffs, rings, watches or other jewelry when you work with machinery. These could get caught and pull your hand into danger.
- Use a push-stick, never your hands, to feed materials into moving machinery.
- Keep hands and hair away from moving machine parts and pinch points.
- When stacking materials, keep your fingers on the sides, not the bottom, of the stack.
- Before any repair work is done on a machine, make sure an authorized person locks it out and disconnects the power. Power should only be restored after proper restart procedures are followed.

