

HAND PROTECTION

Of the many tools that we have available, our hands are the most valuable. They provide us with the dexterity necessary to perform precise maneuvers that even the most advanced technology cannot replicate. Even the simplest tasks are difficult for a person that does not have full use of his or her hands

Keep Safety in Mind

Many everyday tasks put your hands at risk. Hand injuries on the job are quite common, but many are preventable. There are many things you can do to keep your hands safe, and here are a few of the most common.

Here are the top five things you need to know about hand protection:

1. Use machine guards

Never operate machinery that does not have a working guard to protect your hands. Always use a lockout device on machinery when you have to reach into it for any reason. Immediately replace guards when you remove them.

2. Wear gloves

Always wear work gloves when handling rough materials or performing operations where you are using your hands to lift or move objects. Choose the right gloves for the task and inspect them thoroughly before use.

3. Avoid sharp objects

Utilize the correct safety procedures when handling knives, box cutters and other sharp objects. Never attempt to pick up broken glass, nails or other sharp objects not meant for handling with bare hands; always use gloves or a broom.

4. Remove rings

No matter how much sentimental value they carry, rings put your hands in grave danger on the job. They can very easily catch on machinery and other objects, resulting in lacerations, amputations or broken bones. Always remove rings.

5. Avoid pinch points

When moving an object, be sure your path is wide enough for you to move through safely before you start the job. When you set a heavy object down, be aware of the placement of your hands. Always be alert for possible pinch points.

Discussion

1. What location in your work area have pinch point hazards?

2. Can anyone share an experience relating to this topic?

