

Tool Guarding



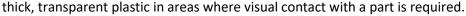
Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the Occupational Safety web page.

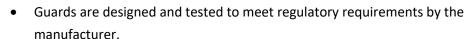
General Information

Tool guards come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. They are all designed to protect the operator and bystanders from hazards associated with the equipment.

What are tool guards?

- Tool guards are a physical barrier placed between a hazard and an operator.
- Guards are commonly constructed out of steel or





o They should not be modified or built unless no other options are available.

When and where are guards required?

- Guards are required when operating tools or equipment that have potential to cause injury to the operator or bystanders.
- Guards should cover moving parts and areas where projectiles can be generated.
 - o Tools commonly equipped with guards include an angle grinder, bench grinder, circular saw, table saw, drill press, fan, and heat guns.

Why do guards provide the best protection?

- Guarding provides superior protection because it does not require action from the user (passive protection).
 - Safety glasses are a form of active protection and should be used in conjunction with guards to prevent injury.

Who can remove tool guards?

- Tool should not be operated without guards under any circumstance.
- If a guard must be removed for repair or maintenance, it should only be done by trained personnel.
- Tools should be disconnected from a power source prior to removing any guards.
 - Lockout/tagout (LOTO) may be required if a tool is wired directly to power.
- Guards should be reinstalled before the tool is returned to service.

Supervisor: Participants:	

Discussion Date: