



Pinch Points

- Beware where you place your fingers, hands, arms while working near equipment
- Determine what tools or equipment is best for completing the task
- Understand the forces that are applied at pinch points

All jobs where the potential for pinch points exist should be thoroughly examined to find the safest way to complete the task or an alternate way to accomplish the task without endangering your extremities. The source(s) of compression hazards are comprised of rolling or pinching objects which could crush the feet, hands, arms or other bodily parts.

When you pinch a finger at home, it's usually no more than a painful nuisance. But pinches in the workplace can be a lot more serious. There is no comparing the power of a slammed screen door with the force of industrial machinery. A pinch-point injury on the job can be a serious disabling injury, causing amputation, or even death.

Pinch points can occur anywhere a part of the body can get caught between two objects. This hazard is everywhere in the workplace. Any place where equipment is transmitting energy, there is a pinch point.

Often pinch-point injuries are the result of workers who fail to recognize the hazard or realize the dangers of machinery, or take shortcuts to get the work done more quickly, but end up injuring themselves instead. *Never perform a task without proper training, by taking shortcuts, or bypassing procedures; the consequences could be serious.*

The best protection from pinch-point hazards comes not from procedures, but from the personal attention of employees taking the time to recognize potential hazards.

- Review the dangers of pinch points and the procedures for working safely on a regular basis.
- Perform frequent, targeted inspections to ensure that guards are not missing and procedures are being followed.
- Use good body position to prevent being in the pinch point.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and injuries are not the preferred method for training.

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of safety."