

Safety Tips – Around the machine

1. MACHINE GUARDS

Before using any machine, check to ensure that the machine guards are in position and serviceable. These guards not only prevent parts of the body or clothing coming in contact with the moving parts of the machine but also ward off objects that might fly off the machine and cause injury.

2. LIFTING APPLIANCES

Always ensure that lifting equipment, such as chains, slings, lifting brackets, hooks, and eyes are thoroughly checked before use. If in doubt select stronger equipment. Never stand under a suspended load or raised implement.

3. COMPRESSED AIR

The pressure from a compressed air line is often as high as 100 P.S.I (6.9 bar) Any misuse may cause injury. Never use compressed air to blow dust, filing, dirt, etc. away from your work area unless the correct type of nozzle is fitted. Compressed air is not a cleaning agent. It will only move dust etc. from one place to another. Look around before using an air hose as bystanders may get grit into their eyes, ears and skin.

4. HAND TOOLS

Many cuts, abrasions and injuries are caused by defective tools. Never use the wrong tool for the job as this generally leads either to some injury or to a poor job done.

Never use:

- A hammer with a loose or split handle.
- Spanners or wrenches with splayed or worn jaws.
- Wrenches or files as hammers; drills or clevis pins or bolts as punches.

For removing or replacing hardened pins use a copper or brass drift rather than a hammer.

For dismantling, overhaul and assembly of major and sub-components always use the Special Service Tools recommended. These will reduce the work effort, labor time and the repair cost.

Always keep tools clean and in good working order.

5. ELECTRICITY

Electricity has become so familiar in day to day usage that it's potentially dangerous properties are often overlooked. Misuse of electrical equipment can endanger life.

Before using any electrical equipment, particularly portable appliances, make a visual check to make sure that the cable is not worn or frayed and that the plugs, sockets, etc. are intact. Make sure you know where the nearest isolating switch for your equipment is located.