

# Portable Tools: Guarding Requirements

Department: Chemical and General Safety

Program: Portable Tools

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Any power tool designed to accommodate guarding, such as circular saws, airless spray guns, belt sanding machines, and portable grinders, must be equipped with that guard during use and the guard must not be altered.

In general, guards are provided to protect the user and others from the following hazards:

- Point of operation
- In-running nip points
- Rotating parts
- Flying chips and sparks

Specifically, the moving parts of a power tool that can be hazardous must be guarded. For example, all of the following parts must be guarded:

- Gears, sprockets, and sprocket chain drives
- Belt and pulley drives
- Hazardous revolving or reciprocating parts
- Pulleys and drums
- Exposed shafts
- Projecting shaft ends
- Collars, clutches, and couplings

For example, portable circular saws must be equipped with guards. An upper guard must cover the entire blade of the saw. A retractable lower guard must cover the teeth of the saw, except when it makes contact with the work material. The lower guard must automatically return to the covering position when the tool is withdrawn from the work.

## ***Exclusions***

Certain tools are excluded from the guarding requirements due to there being a greater hazard to personnel if they are guarded in their working area. These tools include chain and reciprocating saws. These types of tools have other guards to protect personnel.