

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

CLAMPS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Clamps are versatile tools that serve to temporarily hold work securely in place. They are used for many applications including carpentry, woodworking, furniture making, welding, construction and metal working. Clamp styles include C-clamps, bar clamps, pipe clamps and hand screws.

1. Wear safety glasses or a face shield where there is a possibility of eye injury.
2. Select the proper clamp style and size by matching the work holding requirements of the job with the following clamp features.
 - Strength and weight.
 - Opening (length of reach).
 - Throat depth (depth of reach).
 - Ease of adjustment.
 - Clamping surface (material used and size).
3. Ensure that the swivel at the end of the screw turns freely before using.
4. Use padding with C-clamps to avoid marring the work.
5. Remove clamps as soon as the job is finished. Clamps serve only as temporary devices for holding work securely in place.
6. Keep all moving parts of clamps lightly oiled and clean. Make sure there is no dirt or oil on any part that will come in contact with the work.
7. Store C-clamps by clamping them in a race, not in a drawer.

DON'T:

- Use extra large clamps for the sake of their large throats – instead, use deep-throat clamps.
- Use any clamp that has a bent frame or a bent spindle.
- Use pipes, hammers or pliers to tighten clamp; use wrenches only on clamps especially designed to be tightened with wrenches.
- Hoist with C-clamps – use special lifting clamps.
- Use C-clamps to construct scaffolds or platforms for workers.