

## For Your Safety: Protecting Your Hands

In scrap processing operations, one of the most common injuries is a cut to the hand. Most of the time they are not serious, but others require a trip the hospital for stitches. In many cases the injured worker "forgot" their gloves or took them off "for only a minute." There are so many things that can cut you in a scrap yard. Try to make habit of wearing your gloves for everything except for those few jobs were gloves are not permitted. Here are some other tips for keeping your hands safe:

- Get the right fit. Gloves that are too loose add bulk that can get snagged on material. Gloves that are too tight can make your hands numb and tired from pushing against the material. The better your gloves fit, the more comfortable you will feel leaving them on.
- Use brushes, not your hands. Sweeping away material with you hand is great way to pick up a painful splinter. Even with gloves on, plastic and metal can puncture the glove material. Use brushes to sweep and wipe away debris.
- Use push sticks and guards. Guards on machine at there to protect you. Never take off a guard to clear a jam unless the machine has been properly shut down and locked out. Use push sticks and tools to move material and keep your hands out of the point of operation.
- Never wear rings, jewelry, or loose clothing. All of these can get caught in the machine and pull you or your hands in.
- Replace worn gloves. Examine your gloves for rips and tears, and general wear. Gloves with holes can not properly protect you. Talk to you supervisor about getting a new pair.

If you cut your hand, make sure you report it to your supervisor. Cuts can easily get infected if not properly cared for. The same thing goes for splinters. Certain types of metal splinters can cause very serious infections if not treated promptly.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.ISRI.org](http://www.ISRI.org)  
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