

Jewellery and Entanglement Definitions

Jewellery includes rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, chains and similar personal accessories that can become caught in moving or rotating equipment.

Entanglement happens when a person, clothing, hair or personal item becomes caught in moving equipment, potentially causing pulling, drawing-in, crushing or other serious injury.

Why Jewellery Is a Workplace Hazard

Jewellery can catch on rotating or moving parts and pull a worker into equipment before it can be stopped. This risk exists around machinery, tools, vehicles, lifting equipment and other moving components.

Loose jewellery can also catch while climbing. Assess other tasks for places where a ring or bracelet could snag or be crushed. (See [CCOHS.ca](https://www.ccohs.ca), *Ladders – Climbing Up and Down Safely*)

Legislation

Section 10-1 of Saskatchewan's *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* addresses machine safety where a worker or clothing may come into contact with moving machine parts. The applicable requirement addresses dangling neckwear, jewellery, rings or similar items where this hazard exists.

Common Hazards

Rings can catch on shafts, hooks, edges, tools or materials and cause finger injuries.

Bracelets and watches can catch on moving machinery or protruding components.

Necklaces and chains can become entangled and create a serious pulling or strangulation hazard.

Dangling earrings and other loose accessories can catch on equipment, materials or moving parts.

Where Is the Greatest Risk?

Risk is greatest around moving, rotating or powered equipment, including grinders, drills, lathes, saws, conveyors, pumps/motors, vehicles, mobile equipment, power tools and hoisting or material-handling equipment.

These can create entanglement, pinch, crush, shearing and drawing-in hazards. (See [CCOHS.ca](https://www.ccohs.ca), *Safeguarding – Working around Machinery*)

Effectively Control the Risk

- Remove rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces and other loose or dangling jewellery before operating machinery or equipment.
- Follow site and company no-jewellery requirements; secure long hair and loose clothing and remove other loose items.
- Inspect guards and safety devices before operation. Never bypass or remove machine guards.
- Keep hands and body parts away from moving components.
- Stop and lock out equipment before clearing jams, cleaning, adjusting or performing maintenance.

Emergency Situations

If jewellery, clothing or hair becomes caught, stop the equipment using the appropriate shutdown or emergency-stop procedure.

Do not reach into moving equipment or attempt to pull the worker free while the equipment is operating.

Follow site emergency and lockout procedures, and get first aid or emergency assistance as required.



Before Starting Work, Ask:

- What equipment will I be working around?
- Are there rotating or moving parts?
- Could my jewellery, clothing or hair become caught?
- Are all guards and protective devices in place?
- Have I removed anything that could create an entanglement hazard?

Key Reminder

IF IT CAN CATCH, IT CAN PULL.

Remove jewellery before starting work.

A ring, bracelet or necklace does not have to be large to cause a serious injury.

The safest approach is to remove jewellery before beginning the task rather than relying on the ability to stop equipment after an entanglement occurs.

(See [WorkSafe Saskatchewan](https://www.worksafebc.com), *Hand and Finger Injuries*)

Discussion Questions

What equipment on our site could create an entanglement hazard?

Are there any tasks where jewellery is specifically prohibited?

What should you do if you see another worker operating machinery while wearing jewellery?

What other loose items, clothing or personal accessories could become caught?