

What Is Lockout/Tagout?

Handout

Lockout/Tagout Protects Workers During Equipment Maintenance and Service

Turning off power won't always keep a machine from starting up or moving. To be sure power stays off and prevent accidental start-up that could cut, crush, hit, or electrocute workers:

- **Isolate** or deactivate the energy source.
- **Lockout and tagout** the energy source.
- **Release, drain, disconnect** any stored energy.

Locks and Tags must be:

- Used only for lockout/tagout
- Durable enough to stand up to heat, cold, humidity, or other conditions until the job is done
- Standardized by color, shape, and size throughout the facility
- Strong enough to be removed only by heavy force or tools like bolt cutters
- Identified with the name of the employee who installs and removes the lock or tag

Tags must also be:

- Legible. You have to be able to read them even when they get dirty or damp.
- Securely hand-attached. Attach them with single-use nylon cable ties or other self-locking attachments that require at least 50 pounds of strength to remove.

