

# Maximize your ROI with Guarding

When talking about guarding the most important aspect is, is the guarding system properly protecting your workers from the danger behind it?

Something that should be looked at when deciding on the guarding system that you are going to use is the return on investment (ROI).

Most times the ROI is overlooked when a guarding system is being selected.

Some reasons for this are:

- 1) You have had an injury and guarding is needed in the area right away.
- 2) An inspection has taken place and some types of fines have been given. Again guarding is need right away.

Many sites that we visit have rushed and built guards only to find that they have properly protected the workers but have made the equipment inside the guard very difficult to clean and maintain.

Guarding systems need to be looked at as an extension of the machine that it is guarding which means that it needs to be designed so that, number one it properly protects your workers but it also needs to be designed to make sure the equipment can be properly cleaned and maintained.

When you see a guarding system that is cumbersome and hard to access, will the smaller maintenance and cleanup jobs be done regularly or will these smaller jobs wait to become major breakdowns.

Many times these smaller maintenance and cleanup jobs can be done during scheduled down times verses the major breakdowns that are very rarely scheduled. The most expensive down times are the unscheduled ones.

Have you ever done a plant analysis on what is causing your down time. Instead of focusing on the part that has failed look at other factors that could have attributed to the failure. Many times if you ask "how was the guarding in the area?" The workers will likely tell you that the guarding was very difficult to remove and replace. This will tell you that the equipment within the guarded area was not going to get maintained unless it absolutely had too!

A well designed guarding system aids reduces unscheduled down-time as well as speeds up the completion of an unscheduled down-time, this provides a solid Return on Investment (ROI) while keeping your workers safe.

