

WEDGE CLAMPS WITH TIE WRAPS DO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT OF NEEDING A TOOL TO REMOVE A GUARD

Using a wedge clamp, the fixed guard is held firmly in position. The tie wrap is fastened securely around the shaft of the wedge as not to allow a worker to disengage the wedge clamp without using a tool to remove the tie wrap. This tool could be side cutters or wire cutters.

The **ONLY** intention of the tie wrap is to not allow the worker to disengage the wedge clamp without a tool. The tie wrap at no time will be supporting the weight or carrying the load of the guard!

The tie wrap should be wrapped firmly around the shaft of the wedge clamp through the clamp as shown in the picture and tightened snug. We recommend that a minimum 3/8" heavy duty UV black tie wrap (tensile strength- 120 pounds) be used for this application.

The act of requiring a tool to remove the guard was enacted to force the worker that is required to work on the equipment behind the guard to make an additional effort to remove the guard. This additional effort will make the worker think about the hazard that is behind the guard and use a safe practice when servicing the area which may include, using the pull cord to deenergize the equipment in an emergency or Locking and Tagging the equipment for normal maintenance.



INTERPRETATION VERSES DEFINITION – “REQUIRES A TOOL TO REMOVE”

This statement seems to be a very basic and simple statement with little ramification. The problem with the statement is the interpretation not the definition. We have many interpretations of the word “tool”. Some interpret tool as being a wrench, pliers or screw driver but not a hammer. But the definition of a tool includes a hammer. The only way to have people agree on what is a tool is to use a standard definition which has been in existence for many years. (See definition below). If we want to go further and define what tools can be used, then we need to be specific and state the types of tools which are acceptable in the standards.

WEBSTER’S DEFINITION OF A TOOL:

An instrument such as a hammer, saw, plane, file, and the like, used in the manual arts, to facilitate mechanical operations; any instrument used by a craftsman or worker at his work; an implement; as, the tools of a joiner, smith, shoe-maker, etc.; also, a cutter, chisel, or other part of an instrument or machine that dresses work.

