

Student Handout

Lockout

Lockout means to physically neutralize all energy in a piece of equipment to ensure that machinery or equipment won't start while a worker is doing maintenance or repair. This can be done by turning off a master switch or by unplugging powered tools or equipment. Working on powered equipment that is not properly locked out can result in severe injuries and death. The most common injuries are severed fingers and crushed limbs, but injuries are sometimes fatal.

Examples of hazards

- dough machines
- meat slicers
- walk-in freezers or refrigerators

Safety tips

For any equipment that requires lockout, do not operate the equipment until you have been trained in how to lock it out.

Lockout involves the following steps:

1. Shut off the machinery or equipment. Make sure that **all** moving parts have come to a complete stop. Also ensure that the act of shutting off equipment does not cause a hazard to other workers.
2. Identify and de-activate the main energy-isolating device (the on/off switch).
3. Apply a personal lock to the energy-isolating device, and ensure that all parts and attachments are secured against inadvertent movement.
4. Test the lockout to make sure it's effective.
5. Make sure no one else can start a piece of equipment while you're working on it.
6. Before you re-start a piece of equipment, ensure that no one else will be endangered.

