

Gloves

DON'T WEAR GLOVES WHILE THE LATHE IS IN MOTION

Not any kind, any style, any color, any tightness, or any type.

None are safe in the slightest.

If you need to protect your hands for any reason, then you are doing something else wrong and need to fix THAT and not cause more danger by using a glove.

Letters from actual newsletter readers from around the world.....

“ But, Mad, I keep MY hands on the other side of the toolrest and never, ever, in a million years even come close to the spinning wood or chuck or centers or even much of the tool I’m trying to hold with just the one hand that isn’t gloved, or any moving parts of the lathe. How could, on this Earth, be a problem???? ” - Lefty from Colorado

Thanks for writing, Lefty. Keeping your hands on the opposite side of the toolrest from the spinning piece is a cute notion. Unfortunately, it doesn't work in the real world of woodturning. Whether by choice or by accident, your hand and the wood WILL make contact regardless of which side your hand is on sometimes. Some woods are quite stringy and will sometimes flop around so much that it crosses over the toolrest. And many times you will actually want to have one hand as close to and even touching the wood as possible such as in stabilizing thin turnings. And it's not just the wood that is the problem. Those scroll chucks and faceplates are all too easy to get a little too close to. They can just as easily catch on that glove as wood can. Play it safe and take off the glove, Lefty

“ Mad, what you say may be true for loose fitting gloves, but you can't be referring to my weight lifting gloves! These are so tight around my hand and form fitting that there's NO WAY they could be a hazard. And, to top it off, the fingers are cut out so there's absolutely no chance of an accident. Right? ” - Daisy from Argentina

OK, Daisy, it sounds like you have everything covered. Your gloves are tight fitting? Check. They absolutely won't come off your hand and wrap around anything, right? Check. They're made from Kevlar? Ummmmm NO! Wrapping around a spinning machine part is only one situation where gloves are a danger. That glove that is so tightly associated with your hand (one of only two, at best, I might add) that when, and **not** if, you touch that glove to a spinning piece, it's probably going to rip or tear a little of it. At best, that's all that'll happen. But I've seen it happen with my own eyes where it doesn't just tear.... It grabs that glove ...and the hand it's so firmly attached to and sucks it into that machine! Tight fitting gloves aren't the answer. They're just another set of problems. Fingerless gloves are * better * but you still have the potential for disaster.

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It **really is** just that simple.