

Wood Splinter Injuries Eliminated

Wood has been used for thousands of years as a building material for a wide range of applications. The demand for finished lumber pushes manufacturers to produce goods as efficiently and cost effectively as possible, which has a direct impact on the thousands of employees working in lumber and plywood mills across the world. Lumber manufacturing can be extremely hazardous work, and companies cannot afford to lose valuable production time because of injury. The work environment in lumber mills makes it critical that safety teams constantly evaluate application based hazards, and investigate PPE that reduces the likelihood of injury on the job.

Stopping Splinter Injuries

While wood remains a trusted building and construction material, it can be very dangerous to manufacture and process. In the wood processing industry (handling dry lumber and veneer), wood splinters can have a devastating effect on worker safety and productivity. They range in size (as small as a needle to as large as a yard stick) and can be viciously sharp and jagged which poses a serious problem for production workers. Safety professionals have a critical decision to make when choosing PPE for these production workers, as many existing products such as leather and Kevlar do not have the ability to protect from sliver punctures.

Weyerhaeuser Looks to HexArmor® to Mitigate Splinter Puncture Injuries

Forestry product giant Weyerhaeuser reached out to HexArmor® in search of PPE capable of reducing or preventing the frequency of recordable splinter injuries on laminate and veneer lines. One Weyerhaeuser plant was experiencing 18 sliver injuries per month and had been unable to find a solution to this ongoing problem. The existing PPE was not doing its job, and Weyerhaeuser Safety Professionals were having trouble finding alternative PPE technologies to try – this is when



Worker grading dry veneer

they called HexArmor. HexArmor worked directly with Weyerhaeuser's safety team to explore the possible application of existing HexArmor® technologies in new products designed specifically for Weyerhaeuser production facilities. HexArmor® designers took the feedback from the dry lumber and veneer production facilities and designed new PPE based on the specific needs, demands, and personal preferences of Weyerhaeuser workers.

- Weyerhaeuser plant was experiencing 18 recordable hand/arm injuries per month, and couldn't find the right PPE solution
- HexArmor was brought in to develop hand and arm protection that would provide better cut and puncture resistance
- After implementing the new HexArmor products, the plant experienced ZERO hand and arm injuries

HexArmor PPE Reduces Puncture Injuries to ZERO

The reason behind HexArmor's success at Weyerhaeuser is the unique puncture and cut protection provided by SuperFabric® brand materials. SuperFabric® exceeds industry cut levels (ANSI and CE level 5), and provides puncture protection from wood splinters, metal burrs, and wire pokes. With the introduction of HexArmor gloves and arm guards to the Weyerhaeuser facility, recordable and first aid injuries in the laminate and veneer plant dropped from 18 injuries a month to ZERO! The collaborative work between Weyerhaeuser's employees and safety team along with HexArmor developers resulted in new industry leading protection for stopping splinters.

Veneer and Dryer Line

Laminate and veneer line workers in many large lumber and veneer companies preferred leather gloves, so HexArmor created the Bandit® 5040 work gloves to meet their personal needs and demands. While an interior layer of SuperFabric® protects hands from splinters, puncture wounds, and lacerations, the exterior leather shell provided the traditional grip and dexterity of leather that the workers wanted.



Maintenance

Maintenance workers need to have high levels of protection when repairing and maintaining blades and machinery. That is why



HexArmor® developed the SteelLeather® III 5033 and Mechanics+ 4018 as a solution to stop splinters, blades, and other sharp edges that maintenance workers come across.



HexArmor Arm and Body Protection

Turning away from traditional leather or Kevlar® arm guards and aprons in favor of HexArmor's SuperFabric® was an easy switch for the lumber production crews. Kevlar and leather arm guards and aprons were heavy, hot, and had been a constant source of heat rashes and skin irritations. HexArmor Body Protection proved to be lighter, easy to clean, and provided more protection than the competitors' products.



AP361, AS019S

HexArmor® is an industry leading manufacturer of high performance personal protective equipment (PPE) made with technologies that push the limits of cut, puncture, needle, and abrasion resistance. Our mission is simple: give you better products with better technology designed with end user needs and collaboration. HexArmor® works with industries from oil and gas, to mining, food processing and waste recycling to design the best working and most protective glove available today.

Puncture Protection

HexArmor® gloves and arm guards have been both laboratory and field tested to ensure that users are getting the highest levels of protection from wood splinters, sharp tools, blades and protruding hazards.

Cut Resistance

HexArmor® with SuperFabric® brand materials provides industry-leading protection and exceeds Level 5 (ISEA and CE) cut resistance ratings. SuperFabric® provides resistance against punctures, lacerations, and slashes like no other material in the industry today.

Grip, Dexterity, and Durability

The wood laminating and veneer industry demanded a glove with the grip, dexterity, and feel of traditional leather. HexArmor® answered the demand with leather gloves that provided the right protection with the integration of SuperFabric®, and gave them the comfort and dexterity they needed.