

EXAMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT

Company name: ABC Warehouse Date of risk assessment: 2014 Activity: Hand wrapping pallets

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED?	HOW MIGHT THEY BE HARMED?	CONTROLS IN PLACE	FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY
Manual Handling Stretchwrapping pallets by hand is a strenuous operation, requiring between 330 and 606lbs of spinal pressure in order to apply the necessary tension on the stretch wrap.	Warehouse Operatives	Back strain, shoulder, hand and wrist injury. Lower back injury.	No controls in place	Rotate jobs to ensure workers do not have to wrap too many pallets on one shift. OR use Wrapstik™ system!
Wrapping large numbers of pallets by hand significantly increases the risks.	Warehouse Operatives	Chronic back pain.		Install an automatic pallet wrapping machine if this is viable. OR use Wrapstik™ system!
Operators have to stoop down to wrap the bottom of the pallet and stretch to reach the top.	Warehouse Operatives	The operator has to twist the torso and bend at the same time as increasing the distance between the hands and lower back.		Use Wrapstik™ system to eliminate bending and stretching!
The operators tend to walk backwards while working to check that they are wrapping the pallet correctly.	Warehouse Operatives Pedestrians	Hazard of tripping or colliding with other objects or people. Dizziness.		Use Wrapstik™ system!
Poorly wrapped pallets. Danger of load collapsing and causing injury.	Drivers, Pedestrians	Crush injury, bruising or broken bones.		Use Wrapstik™ system!
Operators hands scraping on the ground when wrapping base of the pallet.	Warehouse Operatives	Operators damaging their hands and knuckles.		Provide gloves or other suitable hand protection. Use Wrapstik system!
Cardboard core creates friction as roll is unwound under tension.	Warehouse Operatives	Operators hurting and damaging their fingers with the heat and friction of the cardboard core.		Extended cores enable the operators to grip the outside of the core instead of putting their fingers inside as a brake. Use Wrapstik™ system!



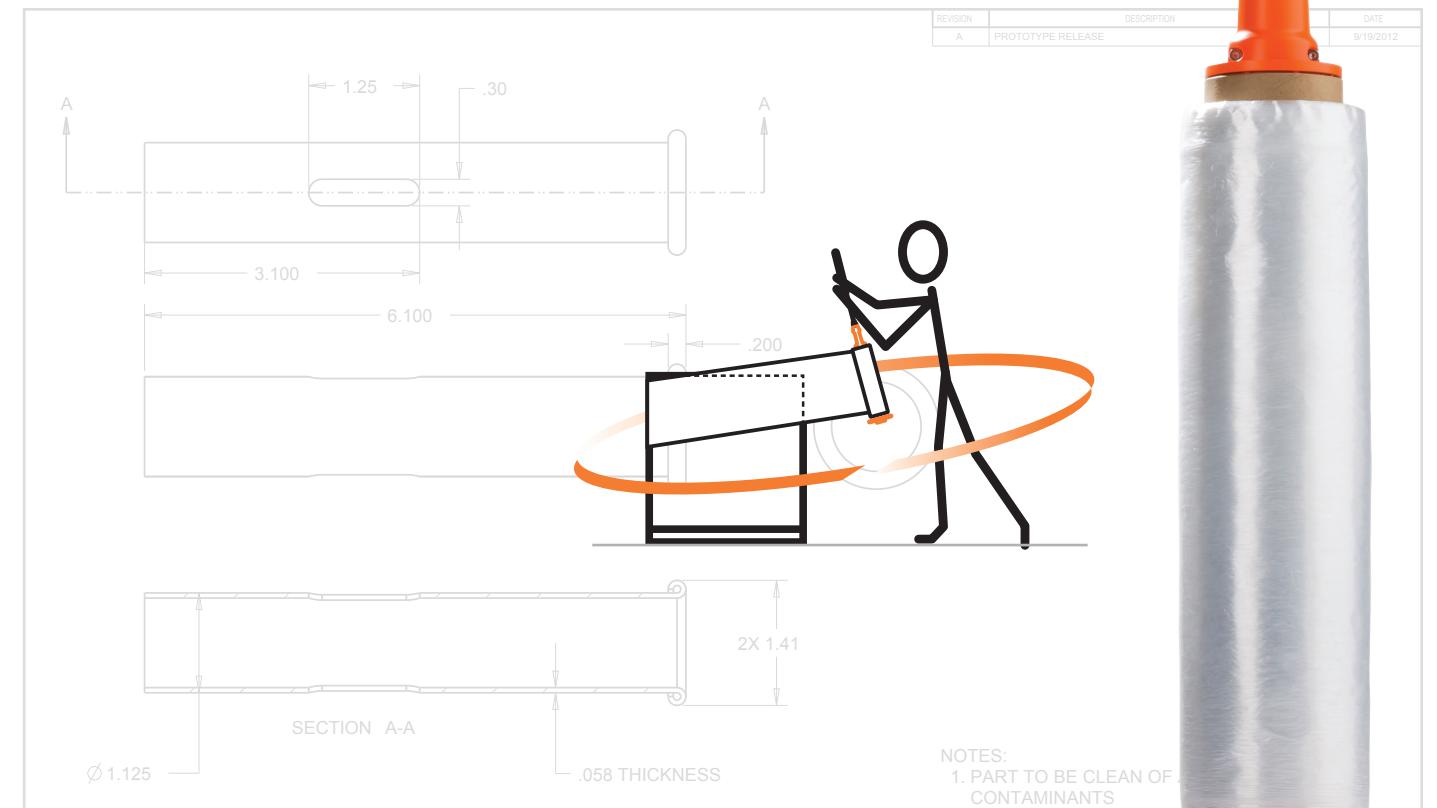
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Hand-wrapping pallets safely

Wrapstik™



Hand-wrapping pallets safely

Hand wrapping pallets using stretch film is a very common warehousing operation, however when operators are expected to perform this task on a frequent basis it becomes a manual handling issue which needs attention.

Wrapping loads by hand requires you to use poor body mechanics and circle the load many times whilst walking backwards. Hazards include;

- Risk of back strain, shoulder, hand and wrist injury
- Risk of developing chronic lower back pain
- Tripping and colliding with people or other objects
- Damage to hands and knuckles from contact with the ground
- Damage to fingers from holding the core of the rolls
- Dizziness can cause the operator to stray into oncoming traffic or equipment

If you must wrap by hand

- Use an ergonomically correct dispenser, especially for high loads
- Provide proper hand protection and make sure it is being used
- Train operators how to wrap safely, don't allow them to put their hands into the end of the cores when holding the roll
- Rotate jobs to ensure that individual workers do not have to wrap large numbers of pallets by hand without resting



Since we started using the **Wrapstik**, our injury claims from hand wrapping pallets has gone from one a month to zero. This is the most superior way to hand wrap a pallet and cost justification is a no brainer due to reduced injury and happier warehouse staff.

Louis H.
VP of Logistics for a Major Retailer

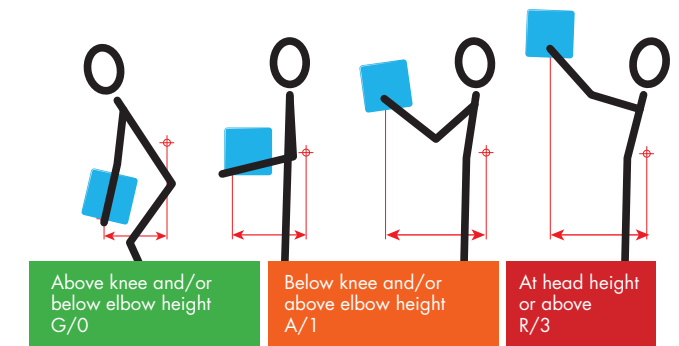
1 year bumper to bumper warranty



Hand wrapping pallets has a high level of risk*

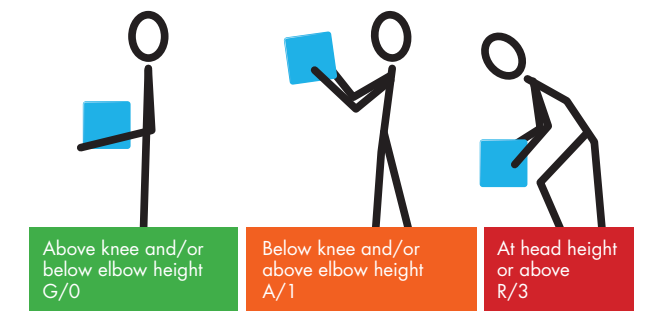
Vertical lift region

Observe the position of the operative's hands at the start of the lift and as the lift progresses. Always assess the 'worst case scenario'. Use the following illustrations as a guide:



Torso twisting and sideways bending

Observe the operative's torso as the load is lifted. If the torso twists in relation to the hips and thighs or the operative leans to one side as the load is lifted, the colourband is amber and the numerical score is 1. If the torso both twists AND bends to the side as the load is lifted the colour band is red and the numerical score is 2.



Case Study

In the warehouse of a busy book distributor, operators were complaining of back pain due to having to wrap large numbers of pallets by hand. Many of these pallets were low and bending down was particularly tiring. Several of the operators had refused to carry out this operation and this was causing the company a serious Health and Safety issue.

Wrapstik™ from Danehe was trialled and the company were delighted with the outcomes;

- The operators no longer needed to bend their backs when wrapping and backache and wrist ache were prevented
- Productivity increased
- All the warehouse staff were happy to use the new system
- Workforce morale was improved.
- The stability of the wrapped pallet was better and there was a reduction in damage during transit



* Source: Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool). www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg383.pdf