

MANUAL HANDLING AND STORAGE OF MATERIALS

because not only is it hot but it is difficult to remove

This work should be given to skilled men who have been instructed in the hazards and know how to avoid them. Goggles, face masks, gloves with the sleeves rolled over the gauntlets, and aprons should be worn. Wherever possible, it is better to use cold mastic asphalt instead of hot pitch.

Labeling glue, which often contains silicate of soda, causes discomfort when it splashes into the eyes. Workmen should wear eye protection and use the glue brush carefully.

Barrels and kegs

Projecting nails, jagged hoops and metal bands, ends of wire, splinters, and slivers cause many barrel-handling injuries, some of which lead to infection. Before handling barrels and kegs employees should inspect them and take precautions against these hazards.

One method of opening a barrel is to use a lather's hatchet or a crate opening tool to remove the nails. Then when the top hoop is removed and the second hoop loosened, the head can easily be removed intact. Loosening nails on a barrel with wood hoops is simple if the hoop is struck sharply with a hammer or hatchet near the point where the nail is inserted. The nail can then easily be pulled. This method of opening barrels not only preserves the barrel for future use, but prevents contamination.

The opening of single-trip drums with a hammer and chisel is a frequent source of cuts and scratches. A commercial drum opener will open these drums without hazard and leave a smooth rolled edge.

Boxes and cartons

Employees who open boxes or cartons may incur wire punctures, nail punctures, or cuts from the device used for opening pasteboard cartons. When wirebound boxes or nailed boxes are opened, wires should be bent back and nails should be turned over or removed.

The boxes and covers should be piled neatly out of passageways. Safety carton openers, made of a protected sharpened blade, are available. The blade is slid along the edge of the carton.

These tools are useful only, of course, where the carton will not be reused. Car-

tons which are to be reused should be pried open with a flat steel pry bar so that the flaps will not be damaged.

Corners of boxes and crates receive more blows than other parts and therefore should be constructed strongly. The interlocking-corner crate (Fig 17-18) is stronger than

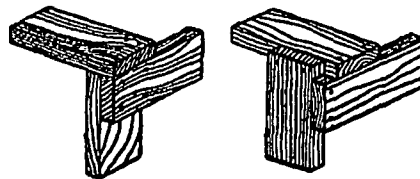


Fig 17-18 The interlocking corner method (right) of crate construction is stronger than the common method (left)

any other type, requires less lumber, and should be used wherever possible.

Diagonal braces help greatly in making crate sections rigid. One diagonal brace in the section will give more stiffening than several parallel slats. The diagonal should extend from corner to corner and should be placed so that it does not project beyond the other members of the crate.

Skids constructed as an integral part of a box should be made of sound lumber, free from knots, and of sufficient size to support the box without breaking. The skids should be firmly attached to withstand dragging across the floor.

The principal reason for failure of boxes and crates is poor nailing. Correct nailing is very essential to safe shipment. Where trouble is experienced with nails pulling out, cement-coated nails, which hold better than uncoated nails, should be used.

Car loading

Heavy machinery shipped on skids should be braced inside the car to prevent shifting. Lag screws should not be used to fasten the skid to the car floor, since men may drive them in with a hammer rather than use a wrench. Using a hammer damages the wood, reducing holding power of the lag screws.

Skids with large knots are hazardous when used on shipments of heavy machin-