

When is My Band Clamp Tight?

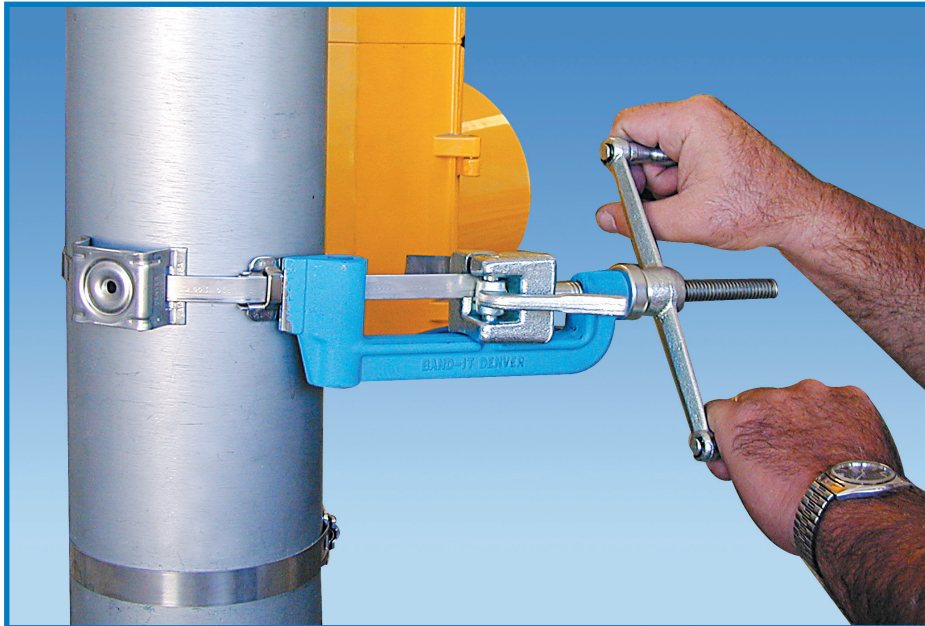
When is My Band Clamp Tight?

Answer:

This FAQ provides a method to indicate when a band clamp has reached its maximum holding force. The point of maximum holding force may be too tight for some objects and not tight enough for others. Neither this FAQ nor BAND-IT® can provide a method to tell if a clamp has been applied too tight or too loose. BAND-IT® always recommends testing as the only measure to determine if tightness is appropriate for the application.

When steel band is tensioned up to its “yield strength” it has maximum holding force. Additional tensioning beyond the yield strength will stretch the band but not apply additional holding force. If tensioning and stretching continues the band will, ultimately, break.

The key is to get consistently close to the band’s “yield strength” without significantly stretching the band.



Hints and Help:

How to determine if a band has reached its “yield strength”:

1. Insert the clamp tail into the tensioning tool. Tension until the clamp is snug.
2. Using a felt tip marker, place 3 or 4 lines across the band clamp, about ¼” in front of the buckle.
3. Resume tensioning and watch for movement of the lines in relation to the buckle.

The clamp has reached its yield strength when the lines stop moving. **STOP!** It will not achieve additional holding force and if tensioning and stretching continues, the band will weaken. Further tensioning of the clamp may result in band failure. Galvanized carbon steel band has less strength than stainless steel.

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