

# Stripping tobacco

## Adult responsibilities

### ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Work area has no hazards
- Press is in good working order
- Child wears long sleeved shirt and long pants
- Long hair is tied up
- Break areas are provided away from the work site with bathrooms and water for drinking and washing hands
- Child has at least one ten-minute break every hour
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job



## Can your child do this job?

### ABILITY

Does the tobacco weigh less than 10-15% of the child's body weight?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult should lift the tobacco.

Does the child have to carry the tobacco less than 10-15 yards?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult should carry the tobacco to the stripping room.

Can the child understand and repeat from memory a 10-step process?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children who can't remember the steps to a job are more likely to be injured.

If using a tobacco press, can the child react quickly?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children need quick reactions to avoid injury.

Can the child stay focused on a job up to 50 minutes?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children working beyond their attention span are easily distracted and more likely to be injured.

### TRAINING

Has the child been trained on bending and lifting techniques?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Bending and lifting incorrectly can cause back injury.

Has an adult demonstrated stripping tobacco on site?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job at the work site.

Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

### SUPERVISION

Can an adult supervise as recommended?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

## Supervision

What's the right amount? Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

### Stripping:

**Age 12-13:** **CHECK** every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes, then make sure the child is bending and lifting correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.

**Age 14-15:** When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes, then make sure the child is bending and lifting correctly and not showing signs of fatigue.

### Using a tobacco press:

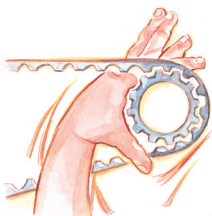
**Age 14-15:** Watch nearly constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

**Age 16+:** **CHECK** every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes.

## Main Hazards



Weight of tobacco can strain muscles



Moving parts of tobacco press can lead to pinning and crushing



Repetitive motion can strain muscles and injure back and joints

## Remember



Tight-fitting clothes



Leather gloves



Good handwashing