

HANDHELD GRINDERS

Safety Topic V6-0586

Tools, Machine Guarding

Handheld portable grinders, with their own set of unique hazards, can be dangerous and can cause serious injuries or even start a fire causing property damage.

- Always wear approved safety glasses or goggles when using a handheld grinder.
- Evaluate the task and work environment to determine if additional PPE is required like gloves, a dust mask, hearing protection, or a face shield.



Safety precautions when using a handheld grinder:

- Before work begins, ensure the guard is in the proper place, positioned between the operator and the wheel. The guard should be easily adjustable and should be adjusted as needed.
- Check the wheel for cracks, chips, flaws, or deterioration and replace if necessary. Wet or damp wheels should be discarded.
- Allow the grinder to come up to full speed before applying to the work.
- Stand firm to maintain focus and balance. Use both hands to hold the grinder.
- Ensure the grinder operates smoothly and is not vibrating.
- Do not grind material for which the wheel was not designed.
- Avoid placing excessive pressure on the abrasive wheel.
- If there are unusual noises or vibrations, turn off the grinder and conduct another inspection to fix the issue before work resumes.
- After switching the grinder off, wait until the wheel has stopped turning completely before setting the tool down on the work surface.
- When the task or work is complete, immediately unplug the power cord, clean the work area and safely dispose of the grinder debris.
- Store handheld grinders on racks or hooks, not on the floor.
- Store wheels in areas that are free from excessive moisture and humidity.

Discussion

Image: 0001557 Aivolie/Shutterstock.com

Why is it important to inspect tools, like grinders, before use?

What are the risks of using a damaged wheel?