

# ANGLE GRINDER SAFETY

Angle grinders and abrasive wheels are often used grinding and cutting tasks in manufacturing sites. Angle grinders can be very dangerous if safety measures are not followed. Metal fragments can fly off and cause injuries or grinder discs can break apart and hit the operator's eyes or other body parts.

When using these tools, follow safety protocols to help avoid injuries.

## PREVENT SAFETY INCIDENTS:

- Minimize Risks
- Pre-use Checklist
- Proper Usage
- Required PPE



**BC Forest Safety**

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## MINIMIZE RISKS:

When using an angle grinder, make sure you follow safe work procedures:

- Evaluate your tool choice: Always check if an angle grinder is the best tool for the job. If possible, use a 4" grinder instead of a 9" grinder.
- Select the Right Disc: Use the correct disc for the task. Never use discs that aren't designed for the task at hand.
- Keep Guards On: Never remove the guards. The guard should cover half of the disc and be positioned between the disc and you.
- Consider Alternatives: Evaluate if a different tool, such as a Sawzall, is better for the job.

## BEFORE USING AN ANGLE GRINDER, CONDUCT A PRE-USE INSPECTION:

- **Ensure Guard and Handles Are Secure:** Make sure the guard and handles of the angle grinder are properly attached and secure.
- **Use Correct Flange and Locking Nut:** Use the appropriate flange and locking nut for the disc type to prevent it from shattering at high speed.
- **Inspect for Damage:** Check the machine and disc for any defects or damage before use.
- **Protect Personnel:** Safeguard everyone in the area from hazards like sparks, ejected material, and noise by containing the hazard or ensuring everyone wears the correct PPE.
- **Check for Modifications:** If the guard has been modified, tag it out and report it to a supervisor.

## WHEN USING AN ANGLE GRINDER:

- **Position the Safety Guard:** Ensure the safety guard is correctly positioned to protect you.
- **Secure the Operating Area:** Ribbon off the area to prevent pedestrians from walking into the line of fire.
- **Use Both Hands:** Operate the angle grinder with both hands, one on the handle and "dead man" switch, and the other supporting the tool's weight.
- **Reach Operating Speed:** Let the grinder reach full speed before applying it to the job. Hold it against the workpiece with minimal pressure to avoid kickback.
- **Avoid Traps:** Prevent creating potential traps for the disc during cutting.
- **Handle with Care:** Do not bump the grinder onto objects, and ensure the workpiece is held firmly.
- **Maintain Proper Height:** Keep the work at waist height when possible.
- **Adopt a Stable Stance:** Stand comfortably with feet apart and take regular breaks.
- **Wait for Disc to Stop:** Never put the grinder down until the disc has stopped rotating.
- **Unplug Before Changing Discs:** Remove the plug from the power point before changing discs.
- **Store Safely:** Place the grinder on a bench with the disc facing upwards when not in use.

## WEAR THE RIGHT PPE:

- Safety Glasses or Goggles
- Face Shield
- Hearing Protection
- Steel-Toed Safety Boots
- Protective Clothing - overalls or other fitted clothing. Long sleeves and pants made of non-flammable material
- Well-fitting, sturdy gloves
- Respirator or Dust Mask

## ADDITIONAL SAFE CUTTING TOOLS RESOURCE:



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