

For Your Safety: Bench Grinder Safety

Like most industrial operations, scrap processors use abrasive wheel bench grinders. They are great tools that have many purposes. Unfortunately, they are often misused and not properly cared for. It is common to see grinder guards removed, eye shields taken off and grinding wheels still in use long after they should have been thrown away. Injuries from grinders do not happen that often but when they do, they can be severe. Using a warped or damaged wheel on a grinder can cause the wheel to blow apart. Without proper guards high velocity wheel shrapnel can shoot out in any direction. Before you use a grinder, make sure you take the proper safety precautions.

Setup

- Make sure the grinder is properly mounted on a bench or a pedestal.
- Make sure the grinding wheel is properly mounted on the machine.
- Check to see if the wheel is the right type, size and speed for the machine on which it is being used.
- Never use a damaged or defective wheel.
- Guards are often removed to put on wire wheels and buffers. Make sure all the guards are back in place.
- Work rests often are out of adjustment. Make sure that they are positioned slightly below the center of the wheel and within an eighth of inch of the wheel's surface.
- Look through the safety shields. If you can't see through them, clean them.

Protect Yourself

- Use safety glasses and a face shield to protect your eyes and your face.
- Use a dust mask if you are going to be grinding for long time.
- Make sure to tuck in long hair, loose clothing or jewelry.

Using a Grinder

- Make sure you have been properly trained before using one.
- When turning on the grinder, stand to one side and allow grinder to run for a minute to ensure the wheel is safe.
- Make sure there is adequate light for your work.
- Never leave a running grinder unattended
- If the grinder or wheel doesn't look right or sound right, shut it off and have it inspected before using it again.
- Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

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Comments/questions?
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