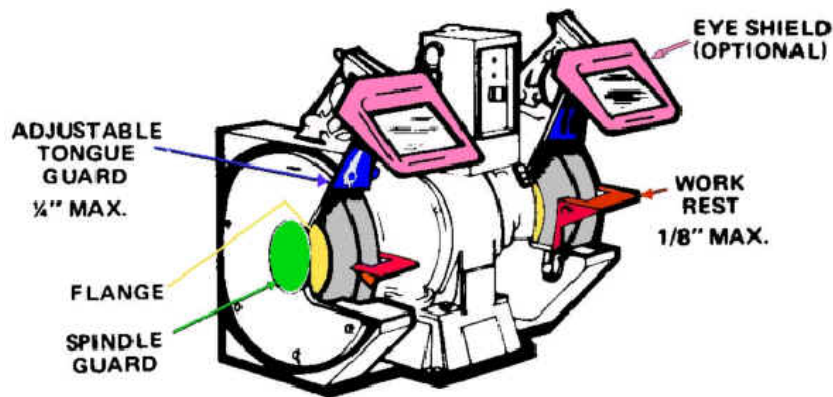


Grinders Again

Like ladders and extensions cords, bench grinders are one of those things that magically jump out of the scrap pile, run over to a workstation, hop up on the table, plug themselves in, and turn themselves on. No one ever knows where they came from or where the guards might be. In addition to an easy OSHA fine, bench grinders that are missing parts are just plain dangerous. Missing or improperly adjusted tool rests can let tools or pieces of material jam against the wheel, cause the wheel to shatter. A shattered wheel is like a hand grenade that will project dangerous shrapnel everywhere unless a tongue guard (pictured below) is properly adjusted to protect the user.



How to Protect Yourself

If the grinder is sitting in a pile of incoming scrap, there is probably a reason why someone is throwing it out. Most likely it is missing the required safety guards. Don't bother bringing this headache into the plant.

Grinding wheels shrink in diameter as they get used. As an operator, make sure the guards are adjusted properly before you start your work. You can use the picture above as a guide.

Vibration from the grinder will cause guard bolts to loosen over time. Check for tightness before turning on the machine.

Like the magic that causes these machines to run out of a scrap pile and into your building, the same magic causes the guards to fall off and disappear. Don't let this happen to you. Keep an eye out for disappearing guards and make sure they are in place every time the machine is used.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.ISRI.org
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