

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

PORTABLE GRINDERS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Abrasive wheels can cause severe injury. Proper storage of new wheels, proper use of wheels and proper maintenance of wheels must be observed. Wear safety glasses, goggles and face protection to protect against flying particles. Gloves, aprons, safety boots and respiratory protection are advisable, depending on the work.

Speeds:

- Maximum speed in revolutions per minute (rpm) is marked on every wheel.
 - Never exceed the speed marked on the wheel.
 - Check that the wheel speed marked on the wheel is equal to or greater than the maximum speed of the grinder.
 - Measure speed of any new machine.
 - Measure speed of governor controlled air driven grinders after 20 hours of use or every week, whichever comes first.
 - Measure speed after any repairs.
 - Measure speed of electrically driven grinder monthly and after repairs.
1. Ensure proper guards are in place and that adequate PPE is used. (Disconnect the power source when performing initial visual check of the machine or when changing wheels.)
 2. Familiarize yourself with the grinder operation before commencing work. Check that the machine does not vibrate or operate roughly.
 3. When mounting the wheels, check them for cracks and defects, ensure that the mounting flanges are clean and the mounting blotters are used. Do not over tighten the mounting nut.
 4. Stand away from the wheel when starting a grinder.
 5. Before grinding, run newly mounted wheels at operating speed for one minute to check for vibrations.
 6. Use racks or hoods to store portable grinders.
 7. Do not use grinders near flammable materials.
 8. Do not clamp portable grinders in a vise for grinding handheld work.
 9. Do not use liquid coolant with portable grinders.
 10. Do not tighten the mounting nut excessively.
 11. Never use the grinder for jobs for which it is not designed.