



Handheld Grinder Safety

Angle grinders, also known as disc grinders, are handheld power tools commonly found on construction sites used for cutting, grinding, and polishing. Improper use can lead to significant injuries.

ASSOCIATED HAZARDS

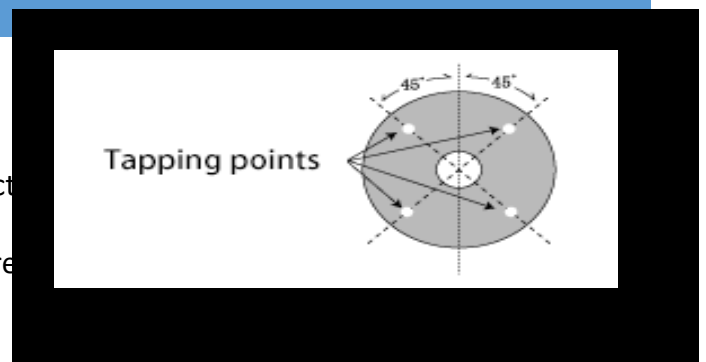
Hazards associated with improper use of angle grinders consist of:

- Flying particles contacting the user's body, eyes, or face;
- Inhaling harmful dust;
- Cuts and abrasions;
- Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) from repetitive motions and vibrations; and
- Hearing loss.

PRE-USE

Prior to use, the user must:

- Choose the proper disc type and size for the grinder being used and the job being performed;
- Be sure that ALL guards are in place to prevent flying objects from striking the user;
- Inspect the electrical cord, if applicable, to ensure there are no visible damages;
- Inspect the grinding wheels for cracks, defects, or wear.
- Perform a **"ring test"** by tapping the wheel in multiple locations with a non-metallic object. If the wheel makes a clear, metallic sound, the wheel passes the test. If the wheel does not make a metallic sound at any of the tapping points, it is likely cracked. Cracked or damaged wheels that do not pass the ring test must be removed from service.



WHEN USING GRINDER

- Do not carry the grinder with your finger on the trigger.
- Allow the wheel to come to its full speed prior to contacting the material being cut or grinded.
- Always use two hands and keep them away from the rotating wheel.
- Wear proper, task specific, PPE including eye protection (safety glasses AND face shield), hearing protection, gloves and respiratory protection when applicable.