

Checklist: Abrasive wheel equipment grinders

Violations of abrasive wheel equipment grinder standards rank among the top 20 most common OSHA violations. More importantly, hand and eye injuries, hearing damage and even respiratory problems can result from unsafe usage.

- Is the work rest used and kept adjusted to within 1/8 inch of the wheel?
- Is the adjustable tongue on the top side of the grinder used and kept adjusted to within 1/4 inch of the wheel?
- Do side guards cover the spindle, nut, flange and 75 percent of the wheel diameter?
- Are bench and pedestal grinders permanently mounted?
- Are ANSI-approved goggles or face shields always worn when grinding?
- Is the maximum RPM rating of each abrasive wheel compatible with the RPM rating of the grinder motor?
- Are fixed or permanently mounted grinders connected to their electrical supply system with metallic conduit or by another permanent wiring method?
- Does each grinder have an individual on/off switch?
- Is each electrically operated grinder effectively grounded?
- Before mounting new abrasive wheels, are they visually inspected and ring tested?
- Are dust collectors and powered exhausts provided on grinders used in operations that produce large amounts of dust?
- To prevent coolant from splashing workers, are splash guards mounted on grinders that use coolant?
- Is cleanliness maintained around grinders?

This checklist courtesy of OR-OSHA, Oregon's Occupational Safety & Health Division, highlights some of the safety precautions that should be taken when working with these useful but dangerous tools.