



ABRASIVE WHEELS

are wheels that can cut or grind and are found in bench grinders and portable grinders. Bench grinders are stationary and can reach up to 3,600 rpm. Portable grinders are hand tools that can reach up to 12,000 rpm. The primary hazards of grinders are improper maintenance, sparks, and explosions from damaged or faulty wheels. Injuries can include burns, lacerations, shock or electrocution, severe injury, or death. To safely use bench and portable grinders, follow all manufacturer guidelines and best work practices.

EXAMPLE BEST PRACTICES

- Always complete a pre-use inspection of the tool.
- Do not use wheels that are outdated or damaged.
- Use wheels that have equal to or greater RPM rating than the rpm of the machine.
- Pick the right wheel for the machine and task.
- Conduct a ring test when changing the wheel.
- Only remove the guards when changing the wheel! Do not operate the equipment without guards.
- Adjust the guards to keep the required distance from the wheel.
- Maintain equipment, per manufacturer guidelines.
- Wear all required PPE – face shield and/or goggles.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Tie back and contain loose hair.
- Use two hands when operating portable grinders.
- Keep hands away from bench grinder wheels.
- Do not grind aluminum!

WHAT TO DO!

- Do not operate the equipment until you have received training!
- Bring questions to your supervisor and Environmental Health and Safety
- Follow best practices and manufacturer’s guidelines.
- For bench grinders, adjust your work rest to 1/8th of an inch and tongue guard to 1/4th of an inch.
- Ensure at all portable grinders have guards!
- If working outside your designated area, you may need a hot work permit. Contact uofm@uoregon.edu.
- In an emergency, call 911 and UOPD (541-346-2919) for immediate assistance!
- Report injuries to your supervisor and complete a [Workplace Injury Report](#) to inform EHS.
- Do not operate the equipment if there are issues! Tag it out of service.



Ring test new or potentially damaged wheels!



Do a pre-use inspection for damage!



Keep guards in place!

