

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Bench Grinders

Guarding

Bench grinders, which are sometimes referred to as offhand or pedestal grinders, are some of the most common pieces of equipment in manufacturing. They are used for a variety of tasks, including sharpening, polishing, buffing and cleaning metal objects.

However, if used incorrectly, bench grinders can create a number of workplace hazards. For instance, if the bench grinder is poorly maintained, the abrasive wheel may shatter, creating dangerous projectiles. What's more, loose clothing and jewelry can become tangled in the bench grinder during use, which can cause serious injuries.

In order to keep individuals safe from these risks, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has federal standards related to the use of bench grinders—[OSHA 29 CFR 1910.215 - Abrasive Wheel Machinery](#). This Safety Matters highlights these requirements and provides ways you can stay safe on the job when using a bench grinder.

Tongue Guards

- Tongue guards are metal plates located at the upper part of the wheel opening of the bench grinder.
- These guards prevent pieces of the grinding wheel from harming nearby workers should the wheel shatter.
- Per OSHA, tongue guards should be adjusted to ensure there's no more than a **¼-inch** clearance between the guard itself and the grinding wheel.

Work Rest

- Per OSHA, bench grinders must be equipped with a rest that can support workpieces.
- To prevent the workpiece from being jammed between the wheel and the rest, work rests must be adjusted in such a way that the gap between the face of the grinding wheel and work rest is no more than **1/8 of an inch**.

Spindle Guards

- Sometimes referred to as side guards, these guards are designed to enclose the wheel and spindle of a bench grinder. Per OSHA, side guards must cover the spindle and no less than 75% of the wheel.



