

The following must be read in conjunction with SP01 General Workshop Safety Rules.

Angle grinders can be dangerous power tools. Kickbacks can result in severe injury and discs can shatter, potentially causing eye and body injury. It is paramount to use safety glasses, earmuffs, and protective gloves when using this piece of equipment.

### General Angle Grinder Safety Rules

1. Consider whether an angle grinder is the best tool to perform the task as another tool may be just as effective.
2. Do not use a larger, heavier or more powerful angle grinder than is necessary, as it is easier to control a lighter tool.
3. Never remove the guard. It should cover half the disc and be positioned between the disc and the operator.
4. Always ensure that the handle is attached on the appropriate side before using the grinder. For right hander's the handle should be on the left hand side of the grinder when viewed from above and vice versa for left hander's.
5. Check discs for damage, wear or defect. Never used a damaged or defective disc. If in doubt discard it.
6. The intended use of a disc is printed on the disc. Never use a worn disc where you cannot read its intended use.
7. Make sure correct flange and locking nut is in place for the disc being used.
8. Unplug the angle grinder before installing or changing discs.

### Safe Usage Rules

1. Use two hands to operate the angle grinder. One hand to grip the handle, while the other hand supports the weight of the tool near the on-off switch.
2. Ensure the correct disc is used for the material to be ground or cut and the task to be performed. e.g. Never use a masonry disc on metal or vice versa and never use a cut-off wheel for grinding or a grinding disc for cutting. Cut-off discs are thinner (typically 0.8mm to 3mm thick) than grinding discs (typically 6 mm thick) and are not designed to take the side force involved in grinding and can easily shatter if used for this purpose.
3. When installing a grinding or cutting disc ensure it is sitting flat on the disc flange prior to tightening the clamp nut with the clamp nut spanner. Following installation rotate the disc to ensure it is running true.
4. Ensure other members are a safe distance from you when using the grinder for any purpose.
5. Allow grinder to run up to operating speed before applying it to the job.
6. Hold the grinder against the work piece with light pressure so the disc does not dig in and cause it to kickback.
7. Never bump the grinder onto the work piece or let the disc hit another object while grinding.
8. If using a grinding disc, keep it at a 15 to 30 degrees angle to the work piece.
9. Ensure work piece is properly secured. e.g. In a vice and where possible, at about waist height during grinding.
10. Ensure that the grinder is held in such a position that the sparks generated do not impinge on you or others or any nearby flammable material.
11. Ensure you have a comfortable stance that is well balanced.
12. Extended use requires regular breaks.
13. Never put a grinder down while it is still running.
14. Ensure the grinder is unplugged before changing discs.
15. Disconnect power and place grinder on bench with disc facing upwards, if not in use.

*Note: In the Shed the predominant use for angle grinders is grinding or cutting metal, usually steel and the discs available are for that purpose. If a member wishes to use an angle grinder for another task, they must consult a Supervisor to check that the appropriate disc is used and that the intended task can be safely conducted in the Shed.*

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