

Tool Box Talk – Safe Use of Grinders

- Several types of electric powered grinders such as angle grinders, straight grinders, tuck point grinders and sometimes bench grinders are used by welders for various applications.
- Each type of grinder has its own unique function, but the characteristics that make grinders potentially hazardous are the same.
- The grinders you will be using need to be properly grounded. Make sure the ground prong on the grinder is in place and in good condition, and that the power receptacle you will be using is properly wired.
- Inspect the rest of the grinder.
- Look for cuts or tears in the cord, cracks in the housing, chips in the grinding wheel, and missing or broken guards.
- If any part of the grinder is not in good condition, don't use it.
- When you have to replace the grinding wheel use only the proper size and type of replacement wheel.
- Ensure that the replacement wheel fits freely on the spindle and doesn't have to be forced on.
- Be sure not to over tighten the spindle nut, but be sure to snug it up enough to hold the wheel in place.
- Never use a grinder without a guard properly secured in place.
- The guard should cover the spindle end, nut, and flange projections.
- Make sure the work is properly secured before you start work on it. Use a vice or clamps to hold the work in place.

Floor and bench-mount grinders should have protection hoods over the grinding wheels and work rests should be attached not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch from the grinding wheel.