

# Metalworking Grinder Safety



*Grinders are the most common metalworking tool and are used in almost all garages, shops and job sites. Grinders produce wheel speeds of 9,000 to 14,000 revolutions per minute, which can expose the operator to serious hazards. Old or damaged grinding wheels can explode at high speeds, producing flying fragments. Please review the following grinder safety tips with your employees.*

## Toolbox Tips

- Train operators before they use a grinder.
- Wear gloves to prevent laceration when operating a hand-grinder.
- Wear eye protection due to high-velocity particles.
- Ensure all guards are in place when operating.
- Ensure outer wheels guards are in place. Never make a wheel fit or alter the arbor.
- Never operate a hand-grinder without the guard.
- Bolt or secure grinders to a work surface.
- Stop the grinder if excessive vibration is detected.
- Put a grinder down only after it has stopped rotating.
- “Ring test” grinder wheels before installing.
- Avoid kickback—use minimum pressure and never force a grinder to work.
- Repair damaged or cut electrical cords.

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and MEM assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.*