



# Angle grinder self-assessment tool

Angle grinders are dangerous power tools and can cause death and serious injuries including amputations if they are used incorrectly. When using these power tools, always:



**Wear safety glasses and dust mask**



**Tie up long and loose hair**



**Wear protective footwear with substantial uppers**



**Wear close fitting protective clothing**



**Take off rings and jewellery**



**Wear hearing protection**

## Before using an angle grinder check:

- Is the grinder the right tool for the job?
- The electrical lead is in good condition and has a current test and tag.
- The building has a residual current device (safety switch) installed.
- You are using the grinder in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- The power tool has the correct guard affixed as supplied by the manufacturer.
- You are using the flange and nut assembly provided by the manufacturer.
- If accessories need to be fitted or changed, you followed the manufacturer's instructions.
- You are using the correct disc for the task and the material being cut or ground.
- You are using the right sized accessory for the size of the power tool.
- The rated speed of the accessory is at least equal to the maximum speed marked on the power tool.
- Accessories are not cracked or damaged.
- The electrical lead stays behind you while cutting or grinding.
- You are wearing appropriate PPE, including safety glasses ('medium impact' glasses as a minimum), face shield if required, dust mask, hearing protection, gloves and an apron to protect against sparks.
- The power tool runs smoothly, with no vibration or wobbling. (Let it run until it reaches full operation speed).
- You have set up an exclusion zone around the area of work.
- Loose clothing is not worn, jewellery is removed and hair is tied back.
- If you are using an air tool, the vents are clean.

## During cutting or grinding activity:

- Check the work piece is secure and supported.
- Check the work will be done with sparks travelling away from you.
- Check the work will not be done near flammable materials.
- Check the accessory is not making contact with the work piece before turning on.
- Use two hands to hold the power tool, one on the auxiliary handle (if provided) and the other on the body.
- Operate the power tool at level with your waist. Avoid reaching up and away from your body.
- Do not lock in the hold to run trigger.
- Do not run the power tool while carrying it at your side.
- Do not use accessories that require liquid coolants (using water or other liquid coolants may result in electrocution or shock).
- Remove burrs from the workpiece.
- Turn off and unplug the grinder when changing or cleaning discs.
- Use the correct tool to change discs.

## After completing task:

- Ensure the disc (or accessory) has stopped rotating before putting the power tool down.
- Do not touch the work piece immediately after working on it (it may be hot and could burn your skin).
- Check electrical leads for damage.
- Check accessories for damage and replace if necessary.
- Store the power tool in a safe place.
- Clean the work area of residue or waste.