

Do's and Don'ts of Abrasive Cut-off Wheel Use

DO'S

- Do wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Required PPE is safety glasses along with a face shield. Wear other PPE as needed, such as gloves, dust mask, leggings, etc.
- Do check all wheels for cracks or damages before use.
- Do check machine speed against the maximum operating speed marked on the wheel.
- Do mount cut-off wheels only on saws with proper guards.
- Do use proper mounting equipment with cut-off wheels. Flanges must be of equal size, relieved and must be in good condition (not warped or damaged in any manner).
- Do insure that blotter is properly installed between flange and wheel.
- Do position the wheel guard so that it stands between the operator and the wheel.
- Do run the wheel in a protected area for one minute before cutting.
- Do securely clamp the saw to the rail before cutting. Allowing movement could cause the wheel to “bind in the cut” and break.
- Do use the cut-off wheel only for cutting, not grinding or deburring.
- Do maintain the cut-off wheel at 90 degrees to the work-piece at all times.
- Do prevent impacts to the cut-off wheel.
- Do feed the wheel into the work-piece at an even speed. Attempting to cut too fast will cause excessive strain on the wheel and may result in breakage, warped cut or glazing.
- Do cut only rail designed for the cut-off wheel.
- Do stop cutting and investigate any unusual sounds, vibrations or anything abnormal.
- Do keep all body parts and clothing clear of the rotating wheel.
- Do be aware of the spark stream and protect yourself and bystanders. Remove all flammable materials from the work area.
- Do maintain your tools as if your life depends on it.
- Do replace damaged wheel guards.
- Do always handle and store cut-off wheels in a careful manner. Keep wheels stored in a dry area free of hydraulic oil or other contaminants.
- Do follow all symbols and warnings located on the wheel.
- Do review the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) for the wheel and the material being cut before using the wheel.
- Do visit the abrasive manufacturer's website for additional safety information.
- Do contact your abrasive manufacturer if you have any safety questions.

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DON'TS

- Don't alter or remove the saw's wheel guard.
- Don't mount cut-off wheels on saws with worn, damaged or non-approved mounting equipment.
- Don't use wheels that have been subjected to liquids such as water or hydraulic oil.
- Don't use wheels that have been dropped or otherwise damaged.
- Don't use abrupt or excessive pressure while cutting.
- Don't cut wood or other non-approved material with an abrasive cut-off wheel.
- Don't use the side of a cut-off wheel.
- Don't allow the wheel to bend or twist while cutting.
- Don't jam the wheel into the rail.
- Don't set down the saw with it leaning on the cut-off wheel.
- Don't use the wheel if you have not reviewed all of the safety materials and have not been properly trained in the use of the tool and wheel.