

Plant

12.01.05

Powered portable belt sanders >

This information bulletin provides information on the safe use of powered portable belt sanders. Portable belt sanders are used to put a smooth finish on large, flat surfaces. In a sander an endless belt cloth-backed abrasive is driven over a rubber-backed flat plate by one or two rotating drums. A bag which can be taken off collects the dust created by the sander.

This bulletin should be read in conjunction with the NT WorkSafe information bulletin 05.01.01 on 'Residual Current Devices'.

Always

WEAR	safety glasses or a face shield.
CHECK	the sanding belts before using them. Replace worn or torn belts.
WEAR	a dust respirator for dusty operations.
KEEP	your hands away from the sanding belt.
TIE	up long hair so that it will not get caught in the sander
USE	both hands to use a sander - one on the trigger switch, the other on the front knob handle
WEAR	tight clothing or button up or tuck away loose clothing
KEEP	all electrical power cords away from the area you are sanding and from moving parts of the sander
ALWAYS	ensure the sander is connected through an RCD (Residual Current Device)
KEEP	the sanding belt at the right tension so that it runs straight and at the same speed as the pulley drum - that is, without slipping.
UNPLUG	the sander from the power supply before changing or adjusting the sanding belt
CLEAN	all sanding dust from the sander motor and air vents. Never let them get clogged - the machine will over-heat
ALWAYS	make sure sanding belts are the same width as the pulley drum.

putting safety first >



Never

NEVER	lean heavily on the sander when it is moving.
NEVER	work on material which is not held securely, unless it is heavy enough to stay in place. Always make sure the piece you are working on cannot move.
NEVER	use a sander without an exhaust system or a dust collecting bag or bin.
NEVER	stretch to get to the job. Stand close enough to be comfortable. Make sure you have a firm foothold and proper balance.
NEVER	cover the air vents on a sander.

Six steps to safety

There are six basic rules you should follow when using hand tools and portable power tools. If you follow these rules you will reduce the risk of accident or injury.

- 1) Choose the right tool for the job and use it correctly.
- 2) Keep tools in good condition.
- 3) Keep tools in a safe place and away from children.
- 4) Reduce workplace hazards – such as slippery floors – in the work area.
- 5) Make sure that people using tools have been properly trained and are supervised.
- 6) Wear personal protective equipment – goggles, face shield, ear muffs, gloves – where necessary.

NT WorkSafe >

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