



Portable Sander Safety



West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety

Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the portable sander operator's manual
- Inspect the portable sander for damage or disrepair. Assure belts, pads, or discs are properly secured, tensioned, and/or tracking. Inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.
- If a portable sander fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the sander from service by attaching a red tag that states "OUT OF SERVICE". Complete red tag with appropriate information.



Operating Precautions

- Wear safety goggles and a dust mask when using a portable sander. Wear suitable hearing protection.
- Replace worn or torn belt, pad, or disc sand paper. Select the proper-sized sanding grit for the type of sanding task to be performed.
- Assure that the power switch is in the off position before plugging in the sander power cord.
- Where possible, secure work stock with a vise or clamps.
- Turn the sander on before placing it in contact with the work stock.
- Firmly hold the sander by gripping both handles.
- Keep the sander power cord away from the sanding work stock.
- Keep your hands and fingers clear of the sanding belt, pad, or disc.
- Avoid pushing down on the sander to reduce the possibility of sander or work stock kickback.
- Do not yank on the power cord to disconnect the sander.
- Turn the power switch off and disconnect the power cord before changing sand paper or adjusting belts, pads, or discs.
- When finished, clean up saw dust and dispose of in trash.

