



Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

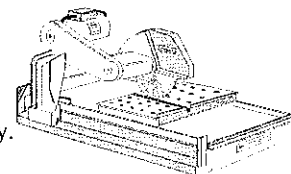
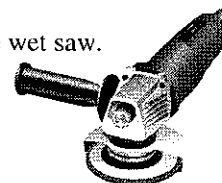
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 104: Abrasive Cutting Wheel (Wet Saws)

Introduction: On many construction sites wet saws and abrasive cutting wheels are used to cut material such as brick, tile, block, paving stones, concrete, and more. While these tools are extremely versatile they also present several hazards which can only be satisfied with an understanding of what the wet saw or abrasive cutting wheel does and how it works. A wet saw or abrasive cutting wheel is essentially an overhead table saw for masonry and tile jobs that uses water as a means of keeping the blade (in this case a diamond impregnate abrasive blade) cool during the cutting operation.

Here are some safety tips for using a wet saw and abrasive cutting wheels:

- **Inspect the wet saw** or abrasive cutting wheel for mounting flanges for equal diameter, excessive wear and flatness, defects to the blade, electrical cord, and table stability.
- **Prior to operation**, check the saw for proper operating conditions:
 - ◆ All fluids are at proper levels. ◆ V-belts should be properly tensioned and pulleys checked for excessive wear.
 - ◆ Blade shaft bearings should be free of end and radial play. ◆ Lead-off adjustments are set correctly, to allow the blade to travel straight. ◆ Ensure that mounting flanges have adequate relief around the arbor hole.
- **Ensure the wet saw** is positioned on a solid level surface prior to use. Don't over reach while operating the wet saw.
- **Do not remove the safety guard.** The guards are there to protect you, use them.
- **Do not distract an operator** while they are cutting material with a wet saw or using a cutting wheel.
- **Always ensure that** water is flowing freely over the blade before beginning to cut any material. This will increase blade life, cutting efficiency, and dust control. Make sure the water is clean and free of debris.
- **Always ensure you have** a good firm grip on the abrasive cutting wheel tool before operating. This will help prevent the tool from spinning out of control.
- **Always keep fingers** free and clear of the cutting wheel or wet saw by using a push stick.
- **When using a diamond** saw blade, make sure that it is mounted on the correct diameter blade arbor
- between proper blade flanges, and is securely tightened by hand with a wrench.
- **Do not force the wet saw** to cut faster. This will lead to breaking the blade, material, or cause an injury. Cutting material while the wet saw operates at the proper speed will ensure a good cut.
- **Never use a wet saw** or cutting wheel while wearing loose clothing or wearing gloves that do not fit properly. Your clothes may get caught in the saw and cause injury. Always tuck away long hair in a hat or use a hair clip.
- **Wear eye and face** protection when working with the wet saw or abrasive cutting wheel to prevent injury in the work place.
- **Never fuel a gas** powered wet saw or cutting wheel while it is still running, around an open flame, or an ignition source.
- **Operate the equipment** in a well lit area; do not operate a wet saw in damp or wet locations, or when it is raining due to electrical hazards.



Conclusion: Abrasive cutting wheels are essential to masonry and tile setters as a means of cutting in tight places or making small splices. Always keep your area clean of hazards and loose material lying around. Only a trained and qualified employee should work with a wet saw or cutting wheel. All observers should be kept a safe distance from the work area.



Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.