



Gasoline Powered Cut-Off Machines

- Read and understand the operator's manual for your equipment. **THIS IS CRITICAL!**
- Wear all of the proper safety equipment. (i.e., respirators, eye protection, ear protection, dust masks, heavy leather or steel toed work shoes, and fireproof clothing if cutting something that will produce sparks).
- Many materials present hazards when cut—know the material you are cutting and the hazards, both safety *and* health, that are associated with it.
- Fuel your cut-off machine outdoors in a well-ventilated area.
- Check your surroundings before cutting. Make sure that your client's windows and doors are shut.
- Adjust guard properly so that the material being cut is deflected away from the operator.
- Use **ONLY** the wheels that are authorized by the manufacturer of the product with approved RPM ratings.
- Never modify a cut-off machine.
- Make sure that the wheels that you use are specifically designed for the type of material that is to be cut.
- Never use carbide-tipped or circular saw blades on a cut-off machine.
- Never drop start a cut-off machine.
- Always operate machine with both hands and thumbs firmly gripping handles.
- Do not stand directly in the centerline of the blade—position your body to the left or right, depending on whether you are right or left-handed.
- Never cut above shoulder height.
- Be alert to kick back forces when operating a cut-off machine.
- Use water whenever possible to minimize dust particles in the air.
- Never cut wood of any type.
- After using a composite abrasive wheel with water, turn off the water, run the machine at high speed for about 30 seconds, and throw the excess water off of the wheel.
- If you use a composite abrasive wheel with water, use that wheel for one day only and discard it at the end of the day.
- Never operate a cut-off machine around bystanders, children, or pets.

These are just a few of many of the safety precautions that need to be taken. Refer to your owner's manual for more detailed information.

Through OSHA's Alliance Program this Quick Card was developed through the OSHA and PLANET Alliance for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official view of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.