

# Toolbox Talk

## Using Emery Cloth on Lathes



### What?

- Every year there are serious accidents involving the use of emery cloth on lathes.
- These accidents result in serious injuries such as broken bones, dislocations, lacerations, amputations and occasionally death.

### Why?

- Accidents occur when hand-held emery cloth is entangled in the rotating parts of the machine or where the emery cloth is snagged on the rotating component dragging the operator into the lathes danger zone.
- There must be a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risk from using emery cloth to polish, deburr or size a metal component while it is rotating in a manual lathe. The risk assessment must determine whether you can eliminate the use of emery cloth completely.
- Where this is not practicable, use a safe method of using emery cloth on a rotating manual metalworking lathe. You will need to consider the following as part of the risk assessment:
  - Is there is a better method available in order to achieve the desired finish on the component, e.g. a polishing, honing, grinding or finishing machine?
  - If the finish being sought is only cosmetic, does the task really need to be undertaken?
  - Is a better machine tool available to achieve the desired finish or correct size during machining?
  - Can another lathe tool be set up to carry out a deburring operation?
- Operators must be informed of the risks identified and consult safety representatives before introducing any new measures. Employers must record the findings of the risk assessment and review them regularly, including amending and updating the assessments when there is new information or there are changes to the process or equipment.

If, after completing a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, it is found that emery cloth does still need to be used, apply it using either of the acceptable methods, please see Page 2.

### Do



- Wear tight fitting overalls (preferably with elasticated cuffs)
- Avoid loose, baggy clothing and ties
- Tie back long hair or wear an appropriate hair net
- Remove rings, jewellery etc.
- Ensure you have been trained.

### Don't



- Use Gloves
- Perform this role if you have not been properly trained and formally appointed
- Leave the Lathe unattended
- Hold Emery cloth with your hand.
- Wear loose, baggy clothing, remove jewellery and tie back long hair not doing so increase the risk of entanglement

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### Do Use a 'Tool Post'

The tool post is used to clamp and hold a looped strip of emery cloth in place during application.

This method is for external deburring work only.

It almost entirely eliminates the risk of injury.

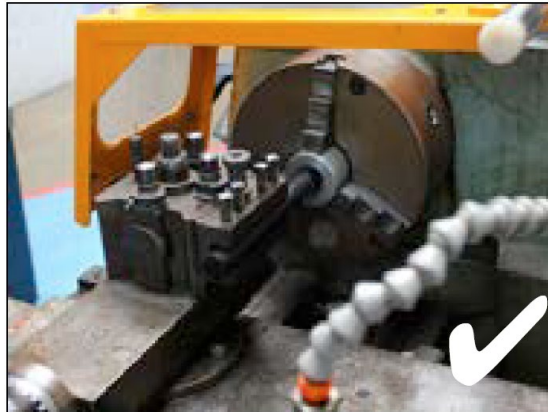


### Do Use a 'Tool Post' and holding device combined

This technique combines the tool post with the holding device.

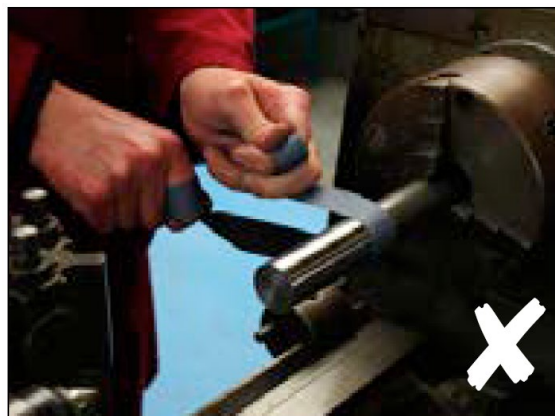
The emery cloth is wrapped around the holding device and held in a boring bar holder in the tool post.

This method is used for internal deburring. Work is simple to set up and significantly reduces the risk.



### Don't Hold Emery Cloth With Your Hands

In this example the emery cloth has been wound round the fingers, to help maintain grip and tension, which significantly increases the risk of entanglement and injury.



The Health & Safety Executive have questioned this on a visit to C&P having seen emery cloth on a lathe. Tools are in place, please use them.