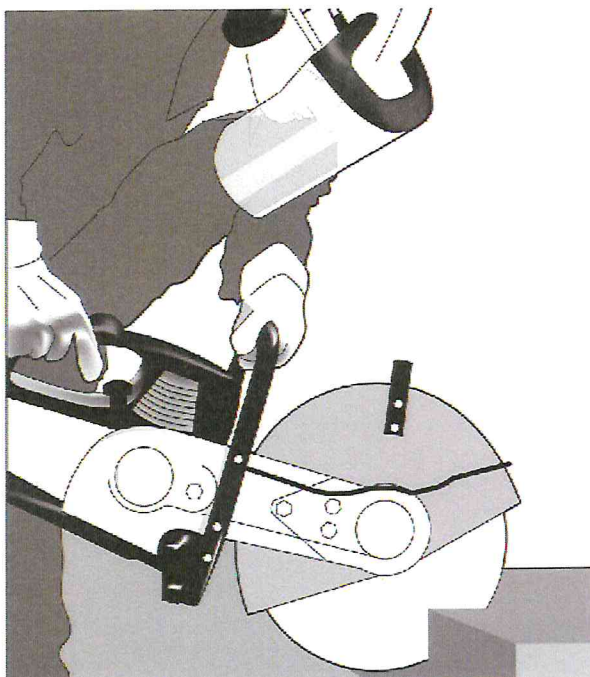
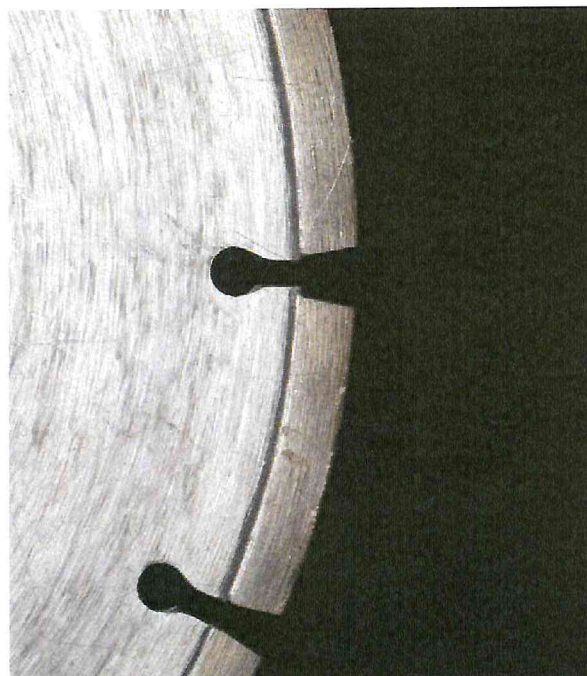


Diamond blades

Reason	Diamond blade cutting is a dangerous activity. Knowing and understanding the risks, and taking the proper precautions, will keep you and your co-workers safe.
Outline	This talk covers the main points on selection, hazards and common injuries when using diamond blades.



Wear the appropriate PPE and ensure the guards are properly set



Diamond blades need to be inspected on a regular basis for defects



Dust suppression (wet-cutting) reduces exposure to silica and other harmful dusts



Diamond blades can significantly deteriorate and become unsafe if they are used to cut the wrong type of material. Reputable manufacturers provide inspection guides for their blades.

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General precautions

1. Your employer should complete a risk assessment to minimise hazards (such as dust (especially silica dust), noise and vibration) caused to the operator, workers and general public who are nearby, or consider other methods of completing the work.
2. The manufacturer's instructions must be followed when selecting the correct blade for the task.
3. Diamond blades are strong and long-lasting if used correctly.
4. Blades should only be fitted by a competent and authorised person.
5. Cutting equipment should only be used by trained, competent and authorised people.
6. Wet-cutting reduces the problem of dust and reduces wear by preventing dust from getting into the machine. However, it also creates slurry, which needs to be managed, and may cause the operator to get wet.
7. Diamond blades should be inspected before each use.

Hazards

1. The operator's hands must not come into contact with the revolving wheel.
2. Beware of particles (such as hot metal or sparks) being thrown off while in use.
3. Dust from dry cutting (especially if there is silica content) can cause respiratory diseases if measures are not taken to control this. Dry cutting should be avoided in all circumstances.
4. Beware of disintegration (or loss of segments) of an overspeeding, damaged or incorrectly used blade.

Common causes of injuries

1. Using the wrong type of blade or incorrect fitting.
2. Fire hazards and burns from sparks flying off the blade, or the material being cut overheating.
3. Segments of the diamond blade breaking free and being projected at high speed.
4. Damage to parts of the body by not using the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), poor posture, an obstructed workplace and unsecured or out of balance/unstable material being cut.



What safety precautions should you follow when cutting kerbstones, paving slabs and concrete blocks?

Given the choice of wet or dry cutting, which would you prefer and why?

What PPE should you wear?

How often should a diamond blade be inspected?



Now inform your workers of the company policy on mounting and using disc cutters and saws.