

TOOLBOX TALK

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Abrasive Blast Cabinet Safety

An abrasive blast cabinet is essentially a closed loop system that allows the operator to remove paint or debris from a part by using an abrasive and compressed air. Silica sand is the most commonly used abrasive, but it tends to break up quickly and create large quantities of hazardous dust. This hazardous dust is contained within the cabinet during operation and carried into an abrasive separator before being carried to the dust collector.



The following are basic operating rules to keep your equipment in good condition and to prevent you from being overexposed to the blasting media.

- ◆ Before the enclosure is opened, turn the blast off and allow the exhaust system to run for a sufficient period of time to remove the dusty air within the enclosure.
- ◆ Ensure that the seals around the door, viewing window and gloves are in good condition. Make sure there is no dust on the cabinet equipment ledges or any surface near the blast cabinet.
- ◆ Use a HEPA vacuum to clean the area around the cabinet regularly. Never brush or sweep dust from the blasting process. This creates a dust cloud and allows the particles to become airborne.
- ◆ Replace the siphon hose on a regular basis. When the walls get too thin the hose will collapse and obstruct the flow.
- ◆ Always follow manufacturer's directions for maintenance procedures or trouble shooting.
- ◆ Make sure employees are trained in the hazards and the safe use of the abrasive blast cabinet.
- ◆ Blasting machines occasionally cause shocks from static electricity. If the operator stands on a mat grounded to the machine and the gun is grounded to the cabinet, this will be eliminated. The cabinet can also be grounded to any conduit for insurance.