

TOOLBOX TALK 2:

Welding work keeping safe

Attendance record

Site:	Date: DD / MM / YEAR
Supervisor:	
Attendees:	

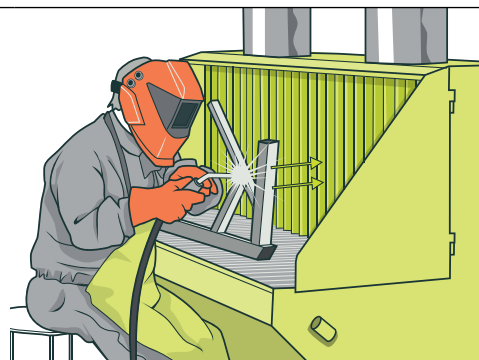
Welding and health

Recap from toolbox talk one: How can welding fumes harm our health?

Prompt: welding fumes can damage your health in the short and long term. Exposure can cause: cancer, asthma, irritation of the airways, bronchitis etc

the right welding set-up

- Avoid excessive current and long welding cycles as they generate more fume
- Optimise shielding gas to reduce the fume
- Avoid working in confined spaces or poorly ventilated areas
- Choose a good weld position, avoid crouching
- Use turntables or other devices to move the work piece to keep the fume away from your face
- Use electrodes that create less fume
- Remove coatings such as rust treatments, paints, and solvent residue before welding

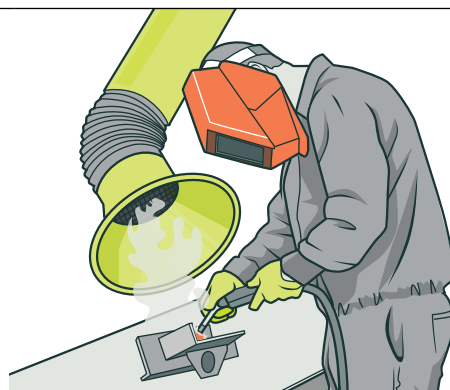


Extracted workbench

Using local exhaust ventilation (LEV)

- LEV is an effective control that sucks the fume away at its source
- The hood should be positioned as close as possible to the source, ideally less than one hood length away - do not stand between the hood and the fume
- Portable high flow fume extractors can help remove fume when welding in tight corners and the reduced size still allows you to see what you are doing
- Check LEV for faults, it is only effective when well maintained
- Less hazardous welding can be done outside or in a well-ventilated area

See the *Welding and local exhaust ventilation* fact sheet for more information.



Capturing hood

Using respiratory protection

- Check safe operating procedures to see what RPE and PPE (personal protective equipment) you need for the task.
- Some types of RPE require a tight seal around your face to be effective.
- Have your employer or PCBU arrange for a fit test when you are provided with new close-fitting RPE, and at least annually.
- Complete the positive pressure seal-check and the negative pressure seal-check to be sure there is a good seal before each use. Perform a visual check to ensure the RPE is clean and in good condition.
- Be clean shaven to get a proper seal for close-fitting RPE, otherwise you will need to wear a powered air purifying respirator.

See the *Respiratory protective equipment - advice for workers* quick guide for more information.



Positive pressure seal-check



Negative pressure seal-check

Looking after your PPE

- Wash and dry rubber and silicone respirators after using. Do not wash the cartridge and be careful not to damage the valves
- Look after your respirator by storing it in a sealed container
- Store your RPE in a clean dry place, away from dust, oil and sunlight
- RPE should be stored so that it does not get crushed
- Check it regularly for signs of damage

Half-face respirator

