

# Warning Welding May be Hazardous to your Health Infographic



## Potential Welding Safety Hazards to Avoid

How to complete any welding project safely

Welding can prove to be a highly dangerous occupation, particularly if safety measures are ignored.

Welders face a range of potential hazards which can cause severe injuries, and even death.

If the right precautions are taken, however, such accidents can be avoided, and welding can be done safely.

*The Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists [ACGIH] provide safety guidelines which help mitigate the risks of welding hazards.*

### The Hazards, and How to Avoid Them

#### ELECTRIC SHOCK

Potentially the most immediate and serious of risks faced by welders.

- Electric shocks can cause severe injuries or death from: The shock itself | A fall caused by the shock
- They are caused when two metal objects with a voltage between them come into contact with each other
- Secondary voltage shock from arc welding circuits is the most common type

To avoid electric shocks, welders should:

- Wear dry gloves
- Avoid touching the electrode with skin or wet clothing
- Insulate themselves from both the work and the ground with dry insulation

#### FUMES AND GASES

Welding fumes contain complex metal oxide compounds and other potentially toxic substances.

- Prolonged exposure to welding fumes and gases can cause a number of health problems, including: Lung Cancer | Parkinson's disease | Hearing Loss | Stomach Ulcers | Skin Diseases
- Both OSHA and ACGIH define allowed limits for potentially hazardous substances in welding fumes

To avoid health problems, welders should:

- Ensure proper ventilation and exhaust systems are in place
- Wear approved respirators
- Clean base metals before they begin to weld

Source: <https://www.360training.com>