

MIG Welder Safety

Make sure you are wearing your safety glasses. These are worn under your welding face shield. The welding face shield is not considered eye protection.

Wear an appropriate welding mask. Some “welders” do fine detail work without a helmet. You may have seen this on various TV shows. They 'sight' the weld then close their eyes as they make the spot weld, then open their eyes to inspect the weld, before moving on to the next weld. Do NOT do this. A better option is to use an auto darkening welding helmet and save your eyes.

Weld in a designated area with appropriate screening and ventilation. Make sure all flammable material is removed or protected from the welding process.

Turn on the ventilation before starting to weld. Keep your head out of the fumes. Use enough ventilation; exhaust at the arc or both to keep fumes and gases from your breathing zone.

Protect yourself with all necessary protection including eye, ear, skin, hearing, respiratory and hard hats as needed. Ask your instructor for specifics about the job. Welding produces heat, rays and splatter at a minimum.

High voltage in welding machines can kill. Do not touch electrically live parts. Make sure the machine is grounded. Insulate yourself. Make sure all covers are in place.

Be familiar with the MIG welding machine and controls before attempting to operate it on your own. Ask the instructor if you are unsure about the machine or safety.

Have a proper fire extinguisher nearby. Make sure it is fully charged and up to date. Know where the nearest EXIT is and be sure it is accessible.

MIG welders give off UV radiation. ALWAYS wear a full-face welding helmet and cover up all exposed skin including your neck. You will also need leather gloves. If your sleeves are rolled up they need to be rolled down.

Once something is welded it is hot enough to burn the skin. **DO NOT** touch pieces that have just been welded. If you must move it, pick it up with pliers. Remember, it is also hot enough to burn through the welding glove so do not use the welding gloves to pick up hot pieces. Pieces might be hot for some time, so do not touch them with bare skin.

If you must leave a part unattended that has just been welded mark it as hot. This can be done by writing a capital “H” on the part with a piece of chalk.

Know what material you are welding on. Some materials will give off deadly vapors if welded.

Do not weld while standing in a wet area. Water/liquid and electricity are very hazardous. If your gloves are wet with sweat (or for any reason) do not weld with them. Get a dry pair.

Position yourself so that you can work comfortably. Avoid awkward positions for long periods of time.