

Respiratory Protection

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The use of respirators, even simple ones like dust masks, is serious and requires workers to understand the types of hazards they could be exposed to, the specific type of respirator needed, how to use the respirator, and its limits. Failure to follow all the requirements to properly wear a respirator can prove to be dangerous and potentially deadly.

OSHA Standard 1910.134(d)(1)(i) *The employer shall select and provide an appropriate respirator based on the respiratory hazard(s) to which the worker is exposed and workplace and user factors that affect respirator performance and reliability.*



- Respirators protect the user by either filtering contamination from the air or supplying clean air from another source.
- Some respirators use specialized cartridges and filters. Workers should know how to identify the type of filters and how to install or replace these filters or cartridges.
- Respirators must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Respirators must be stored properly to avoid damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.
- Pack and store respirators safely to prevent deforming the facepiece and exhalation valve.
- Always use the proper respirator for the specific task and situation.
- Never use a respirator unless you have been properly authorized, fit-tested, and trained.
- Workers must know how to properly put on and wear their respirator.

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