

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to reduce employee exposure to hazards.

We do everything possible to reduce these hazards through engineering (removing) and administrative controls such as safety guards or permit requirements. However, at times PPE is still needed to decrease hazard exposure to acceptable levels.

Here are some types of PPE

- Eye and Face Protection
- Hand Protection
- Hearing Protection
- Head Protection
- Foot Protection

Eye And Face Protection

This protection must be worn when you are at risk from flying particles, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors. Also used as protection from radiation during welding, torching, soldering, brazing, or other operations that emits light.

Types of eye protection:

- Safety Glasses /Goggles
- Face shields - Safety glasses or goggles must be worn under face shields when exposed to chemicals.
- Welding Helmets/shields (if welding)

Prescription Glasses

If you wear prescription glasses, you must also wear one of the following when eye hazards are present:

- Goggles or other protective devices designed to fit over your prescription glasses.
- Prescription protective eyewear that was made to your specific prescription.

Head Protection

Head protection is required if you work where there is risk of injury from falling objects. Hard hats are designed to absorb some of the impact of a falling object. The suspension (headband and strapping) must be adjusted to the wearer so that there is a minimum distance of 1 inch between the head and shell. There are several different types of hard hats.



Be sure to select the correct one for the job:

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Foot Protection

The average person takes approximately 18,000 steps daily and there's the possibility of a foot injury with each step. Foot protection is an important component of workplace personal protective clothing. Protective footwear must be worn whenever foot injury from falling objects, vehicles, movable materials can occur.

Hand Protection

You must wear hand protection when you are exposed to hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances, severe cuts or lacerations, severe abrasions, punctures, chemical burns, thermal burns and harmful temperature extremes.

Gloves are the most common protectors for the hands. Since there is no one glove material to protect against all hazards, it is important to consult your supervisor to select the proper hand protection for your particular job.

Hearing Protection

When exposed to loud noises over long periods, you are at an increased risk of losing your ability to hear. One of the most common reasons given for not using hearing protection is: "I don't think I really need it". However, hearing loss is so gradual even in intense exposures, that by the time you realize that you cannot hear as well as you used to, the damage has been done- and it is irreversible. If you have to raise your voice to be understood by a person that you can reach out to and touch with your thumb, you should be wearing hearing protection while working near sources of high noise.

Maintenance/Care

Before use - inspect all PPE. Check for damage such as:

- Cracks
- Loose or torn parts
- Scratches
- Defects

This includes:

- Always check PPE for damage before and after you use it
- Clean PPE before storing it
- Dispose of and replace any damaged PPE
- Properly store PPE and avoid conditions that could damage to it, such as heat, light, moisture, etc.

Be sure to address any deficiencies prior to use. In some cases it may be necessary to discard equipment. Learn how to clean and sanitize your equipment. Proper storage is also essential to maintaining PPE.