



HEALTH, SAFETY &
ENVIRONMENTAL MANUAL

4.15 Safe Work Program – Respirator Use, Care and Maintenance

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SAFE WORK PROGRAM

Respirator Use, Care and Maintenance

Reusable respirators are available as an increased level of protection and comfort for tasks which expose workers to respiratory hazards.

Employees must consult with their supervisor or the safety team to ensure the selection of a proper respirator for the task.

Follow all manufacturer instructions for the specific type of respirator for use, care and maintenance.

Inspect

- The respirator must be inspected before each use for defects. If any defects are found, tag and remove from service immediately.
- Examine all plastic parts for cracking/wear/damage.
- Examine the face seal for cracks, tears, or dirt build up. Dirt builds up and can break the seal.
- Examine exhalation valves for distortion, cracks, tears.
- Ensure the correct filters or cartridges are selected for the hazard – typically for dust/silica, P100 filters are acceptable.

Fit

- Respirators need to be fit tested as required.
- Workers requiring a respirator must be clean shaven around the face seal. Facial hair can cause a loose seal.
- A negative and positive pressure check must be conducted each time a respirator is donned.

Cleaning

- To safely clean your respirator, remove all cartridges/filters.
- Disassemble the respirator.
- Immerse it in a warm, plastic safe, cleaning solution (i.e., soap/water).
- Scrub with a soft bristle brush or cloth until clean.
- Solution/water is to not exceed 49 degrees Celsius.
- Rinse in fresh warm water.
- Place dry respirator in a clean bag when not in use.

