



PPE Construction

Employers are responsible for providing employees a safe place to work. However, when a hazard can't be eliminated through engineering and/or administrative controls, employers must provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Workers should use and maintain PPE properly to be safe.

Gloves

Match the correct glove to the job. Make sure gloves fit and are in good condition:

- General purpose work gloves protect against dirt, scrapes, slivers and low to moderate heat.
- Rubber/plastic gloves generally are used for chemical protection.
- Disposable latex or vinyl gloves protect against exposure to bloodborne pathogens, chemicals and other infectious bodily fluids.
- Metal mesh gloves guard against cuts, rough materials and blows from tools.
- Cut-resistant gloves protect food service workers from accidental knife cuts.

Check the appropriate Safety Data Sheet for specific glove requirements. Some chemicals may pass through rubber/plastic/latex/vinyl gloves. It's important you have the correct glove for the specific chemical hazard.

Shoes

Proper-fitting work shoes are important for comfort and safety. Inspect shoes often for cracks, holes or tears. Replace shoes if necessary. Safety shoes should have:

- Ankle guards to prevent sparks from entering the shoe
- Insulation to protect against heat and cold
- Instep protection made of aluminum, steel, fiber or plastic
- Steel or composite toe boxes for impact and compression hazards
- Puncture protection

Hard Hats

Choose a hard hat that is designed to meet specific job requirements:

- Make sure hard hat is sized and fitted properly.
- Store hard hat in clean area. Clean it and its webbing suspension regularly with soap and water
- Inspect helmet often for dents, cracks and signs of wear. Replace it when needed.

Eye Protection

Choose safety glasses best suited to your job:

- Impact-resistant lenses have side shields that protect for most types of work.
- Flexible-fitting or cushion-fitting goggles fit over prescription glasses to provide front and side protection.
- Specialty safety glasses, such as chemical or chipping goggles, provide maximum protection from fumes and flying debris.
- Full face shields may be worn in addition to protective eyewear for maximum facial protection.

Hearing Protection

- Use earplugs or earmuffs in high noise work areas where chainsaws or heavy equipment are used. Clean or replace earplugs regularly.
- Workers exposed to noise measuring 85 decibels or greater over an 8-hour period should wear hearing protection to prevent hearing loss.

Sources: OSHA, NIOSH

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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