



Respirator Maintenance

Questions regarding the content of this poster should be directed to the IH intern at 621-8763.



Storage of Respirators and Cartridges

- Store clean, dry respirators in a **nonporous, sturdy, airtight container** preferably a plastic bag. Make sure the respirator is completely dry before storing. Storing a damp respirator in a plastic bag encourages microbial growth.
- Store container or bag in a **clean, dry, cool to moderate temp, and non-contaminated environment**. Ideally your **locker**.
- Store in proper position.
 - Position the respirator so that it keeps its natural shape, to **prevent deformation of face piece and exhalation valve**. Face pieces and exhalation valves should lie in a normal position to prevent the plastic or rubber from being deformed.



Clean and Disinfect Respirator

Cleaning after each short-term use:

- Remove cartridges.
- Carefully wipe both interior and exterior surfaces of the face piece with provided respirator disinfectant wipes.
- Allow the disassembled respirator to air dry in a **non-contaminated environment**.
- Reassemble the respirator and inspect that it is functioning properly prior to use.

Cleaning after long-term use and at regular intervals:

- Disinfecting station and supplies are located in the Mold Shop.
- Disassemble the respirator- remove cartridges and face/head harness.
- Scrub respirator and let it sit fully submerged in the provided disinfecting solution designed for respirator cleaning for **10 minutes**.
- Rinse thoroughly in **fresh warm water** and allow to air dry in a **non-contaminated environment**.
- This procedure should be performed once a week in addition to using disinfectant wipes on a daily basis.

Disassemble → Clean → Sanitize → Dry → Reassemble → Inspect



Inspect Respirator Before and After Each Use

- Face piece- crack, tears, holes, facemask distortion, and cracked or loose lens/face shield.
- Head straps- breaks, tears, and bent or broken buckles.
- Valves-residue or dirt, cracks or tears, and valves that may be stuck or folded open.
- Filters/Cartridges- the NIOSH approval designation/label is clearly visible, inspect for gaskets, cracks, or dents in the housing, and the appropriate filter/cartridge is being used for the task.
- Personal Air Purifying Respirator (PAPRs)- please see the PAPR Pre-Operational Inspection Checklist for further instructions.

Filter Cartridge Change Schedule

- Particulate Filter Cartridges- employees using respirators with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters need to change their cartridges when they first begin to experience increased breathing resistance while wearing their respirator.
- Organic Vapor/Chemical Cartridges- employees wearing respirators with organic vapor cartridges need to change their cartridges when they detect chemical odors while wearing their respirator.

Clean-Shaven Face

Respirators shall not be worn when conditions prevent a good seal. Such conditions may be a growth of beard, sideburns, a skull cap that protects under the face piece, or temple pieces on glasses. When a respirator must be worn to protect employees from airborne contaminants, it has to fit correctly, and this will require the wearer's face to be clean-shaven where the respirator seals against it. OSHA STANDARD [29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)].

Hair is allowed to grow on other areas of the face as long as it does not protrude under the respirator seal, or extend far enough to interfere with the function of the device. Therefore, short mustaches, sideburns, and small goatees that are trimmed so that no hair underlies the seal of the respirator present no hazard.

For more resources on the internet please refer to the following website:

NIOSH Pocket Guide- <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgname-a.html>

3M- <http://rsel.3m.com/rsel/genhazard.jsp>

MSA- <http://www.msanet.com/response/chemicalsearch.asp>

Webwiser- <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov>

