



Refractories | Engineering | Construction

Proper Fitting, Care & Cleaning of Respirators

Your Top 10 Safety Tips

TAKE CARE OF YOUR RESPIRATOR SO IT CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU

On the job, a respirator is the only thing between you and dangerous dusts, gases, vapors or fumes. Proper fitting, along with care and maintenance, makes the most of a respirator's service life while it protects yours.

YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Respirators must be certified for intended use by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, so careful consideration must be used when selecting the correct respirator for the task
- 2 To ensure the highest level of protection possible for a given respirator, users should be properly fit tested per OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134, 1999)
- 3 Before use, carefully inspect the respirator's facepiece for cracks, tears or dirt. Pay special attention to the face seal. Check valves, straps, gaskets and seals for signs of wear, tear or damage
- 4 OSHA requires respirators be cleaned after each use
- 5 To clean a respirator, disassemble and wash all components in warm water with a mild detergent and stiff-bristle brush
- 6 Disinfect parts by immersing them for 2 minutes in a bucket of disinfectant solution, such as quaternary ammonia and water
- 7 Hand dry components with clean, lint-free cloth or allow to air dry
- 8 Cartridges and filters cannot be cleaned. Depending on their condition, they can be reused or disposed of completely
- 9 Store your respirator in a cool, dry place without exposure to sunlight, heat, cold, smoke or chemicals
- 10 Store respirators in a normal position to prevent warping

BONUS TIP: Never wear a full beard when using a respirator. Facial hair can limit the effectiveness of a respirator's face-to-facepiece seal.

35

**YEARS RESPIRATOR
TESTING HAS BEEN DONE
IN THE USA**

2800+

**OSHA VIOLATIONS
ISSUED FOR LACK OF
FIT TESTING**

5M

**EMPLOYEES REQUIRED TO
WEAR RESPIRATORS
NATIONWIDE**