

What is a respirator? A respirator personal protective equipment (PPE) worn over the mouth and nose or entire face to prevent the inhalation of dust, smoke, or other airborne substances.

Donning and Doffing Respirators

Donning

1. Inspect your respirator before donning.

Inspect for:

- Excessive dirt
- Holes, cracks, or tears
- Missing or defective valves
- Worn or damaged straps
- Proper Cartridges

1. If 1/2 mask, clip lower straps behind the neck and tighten.
2. Use one hand to place chin in respirator. Hold in place.
3. Use other hand to pull straps into place.

4. Tighten top straps working side to side, while holding respirator in place.
5. Tighten lower straps, working side to side, while holding respirator in place.
6. Perform Positive and Negative Checks.

Doffing

1. Loosen straps from top to bottom.
2. Grab respirator from the bottom and move upward over top of head.
3. Remove cartridges.
4. Clean and store .



Proper Respirator Use

Acceptable



Ensure no air is leaking into respirator.

Ensure the cartridges are appropriate for the substance you're exposed to.

Ensure respirator is appropriate for the work you're performing.

If you are having difficulty breathing—consult your supervisor.

Ensure there is no facial hair that interferes with valves or the face to facepiece seal.

Definitions

Donning (don) - to put on

Doffing (doff) - to remove

Assigned Protection Factor (APF) -the workplace level of respiratory protection that a respirator is expected to provide to employees.