

# Safe Eye & Face Protection

According to eye and health safety organization: *Prevent Blindness America*, wearing eye protection can prevent 90% of all eye injuries in the workplace. Most eye and face injuries are the result of employees not wearing or using the proper personal protective equipment. Most of these types of injuries are preventable. Remember that all eye and face protection must be ANSI Z87 approved. Look for a little “Z87” on the glasses/shield to indicate that it has passed ANSI’s qualifications. Here is a guide of what PPE to wear for each task.

## Hazards and Their PPE Requirement

Task/Hazard	PPE Required
Flying sparks and particulates	Safety glasses with full face shield
Cutting metal	Safety glasses with full face shield
Cutting wood	Safety glasses, face shield if there are large amounts of particulates and/or deemed necessary
Cutting concrete /brick	Safety glasses with full face shield
Chemical splashes and toxic gases	Safety goggles
Welding activities	Welding helmet
Using an abrasive wheel or grinder (handheld and stationary)	Safety glasses with full face shield
Live electrical work	Face shield with wrap around guarding or Arc flash suit hood
Other equipment or tasks	Reference the manufacturer’s requirements for PPE

## Additional Information

- Normal prescription glasses with side shields are not adequate eye protection. Traditional prescription glasses do not offer enough protection.
- Face shields cannot be worn in lieu of safety glasses. They are only effective when worn *with* safety glasses.
- All employers must provide their employees with eye/face protection when they are exposed to a potential hazard.
- Always consult the manufacturer’s requirements for PPE prior to use.
- Consider purchasing anti-fog wipes for eye protection.



Our ability to see is crucial to our day-to-day life. We need to be vigilant that we are protecting ourselves and our employees from these hazards.