



Eye Protection

Working around hazards that pose a threat to your vision are unavoidable. However, you can prevent painful injury and possible permanent vision damage if you, together with your employer, prepare for the unexpected.

It can only take a moment for you to lose your sight. Because of workplace hazards, OSHA requires that your employer supply appropriate eye protection. However, you must take responsibility and use your Personal Protective Equipment appropriately.



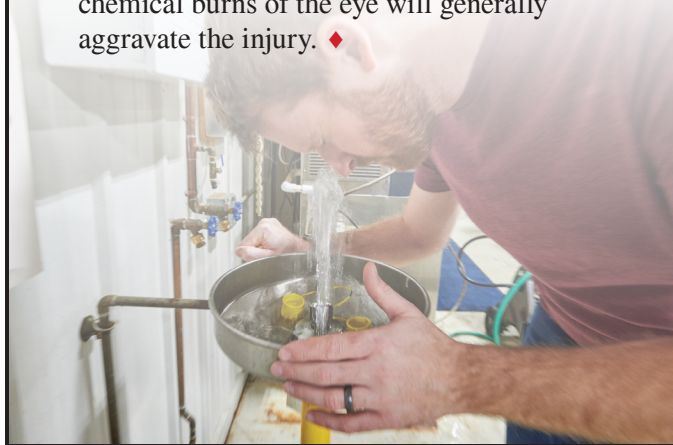
Eye and Face Protection

When all else fails...

Emergency showers and eyewash must be readily available to you near chemical hazards.

The first thing to do for chemical burns to the eyes is flush them with lots of water. An emergency shower enables you to drench your eyes with water. An eyewash is similar to a drinking fountain with two spouts to irrigate or flush your eyes. Variations on showers and eyewashes exist, but they provide the same function -- to flush affected areas of your body with large amounts of water. However, you should be aware of a few distinctions:

- Plumbed eyewashes are stations connected permanently to a potable water source.
- Check to see if safety showers and eyewashes are within a 10 second walk, and not more than 100 feet from the hazard.
- Know the locations of the emergency showers and eyewashes in your work area. Draw maps and post them for a permanent reference. Make sure stations are well-lit and identified with a highly-visible sign. Any delay in flushing chemical burns of the eye will generally aggravate the injury. ♦



What must I do?

As an employee who is required to wear eye protection, you must:

- understand how to use the required PPE,
- know how to properly clean and maintain your PPE, and
- know the locations of and how to use the eyewash stations.

What must my eye protection do?

At a minimum, your eye protection must:

- adequately protect you against hazards to your eye,
- be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated conditions,
- fit snugly without interfering with the movements or vision of the wearer,
- be durable,
- be capable of being disinfected,
- be easily cleanable, and
- be kept clean and in good repair. ♦

Face Protection

Face protection is required by OSHA where there is a reasonable probability of preventing injury. In other words, if there's equipment that can protect you, your employer needs to provide it.

You have to use PPE to protect yourself and ensure you make it home safe. A study found that about half of the injuries to workers faces result from not wearing protective equipment.

What must my employer do?

Your employer must ensure that:

- all workers required to wear face protection understand how to use it so that it offers the most protection, and
- these workers must demonstrate understanding of the training, and the ability to use it properly before being allowed to perform work.

What must I do?

As an employee who is required to use face protection, you must:

- understand how to use your personal protection equipment(PPE), and
- know how to properly clean and maintain the PPE.

What must my face protection do?

At a minimum, your face protection must:

- adequately protect against hazards,
- be reasonably comfortable,
- fit snugly without interfering your vision or work,
- be durable,
- be capable of being disinfected,
- be easily cleanable, and
- be kept clean and in good repair. ♦



Next Month's Topic:

Used Oil