

Dust masks (N-95 respirators)

Training for employees



July, 2021

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Why is respirator training required?

If you don't know how to use a respirator properly, you can get a false sense of protection.

There are several types of respirators that provide different levels of protection and need specific training.

Training is required by L & I for anyone who wears a respirator, including dust masks.



When are respirators needed to protect you?

When there is not enough oxygen,
when amounts of dusts and chemicals in the
air exceed safe limits,
in emergency or unknown situations of air
contamination like a large chemical spill,
when required by a pesticide label.



What protection do dust masks provide?

Dust masks do not protect you from:

- oxygen deficiency (low oxygen),

- toxic gases or vapors,

- high concentrations of toxic dusts.

They can provide protection from harmful dusts, if levels are not too high.



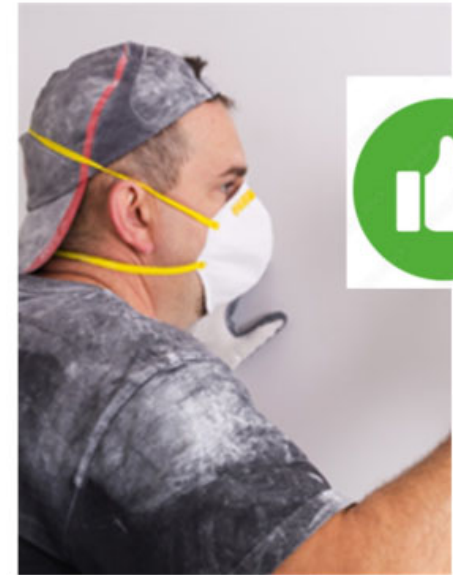
The right mask for toxic dust



Face masks



Single strap mask



Double-strap mask

Dust masks must be NIOSH-approved



Three types of NIOSH-approved dust masks

N-95 masks filter out 95% of dust particles.



N-99 masks filter out 99 % of dust particles.

N-100 masks filter out 99.7% of dust particles.



Examples of unapproved masks



[CDC notice of Counterfeit Respirators](#)

The type of masks we provide are shown below

Add photo of your masks here

Where we require the use of dust masks

List work areas or job duties here

How much protection does a dust mask give?

NIOSH-approved dust masks provide protection up to 10 times the permissible exposure limit of a hazardous dust.



The Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) is the maximum amount or concentration of a harmful dust in the air that a worker may be exposed to in an 8-hour workday.

Dust masks must fit properly



Straps incorrectly placed



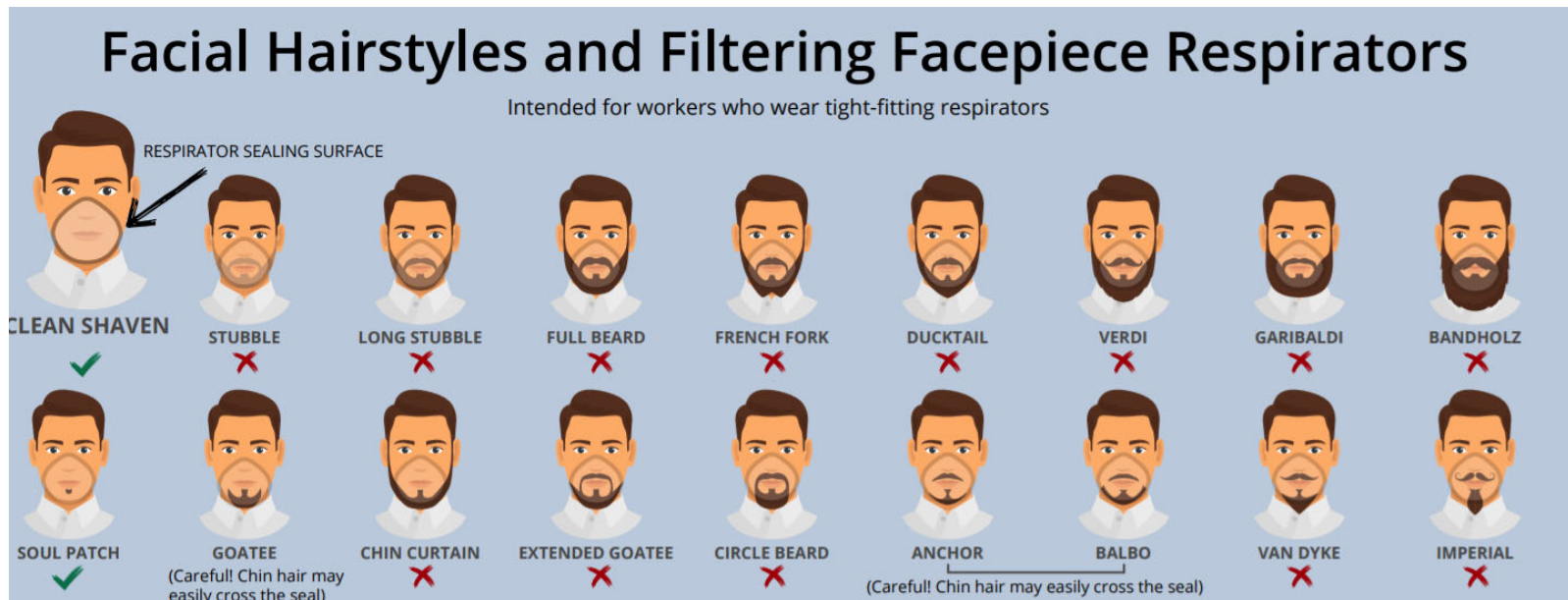
Place straps this way

How to wear a dust mask



Dust masks and facial hair

Dust masks must fit tightly on the face to prevent leaks around the edges. Facial hair that interferes with the edge of the mask is not allowed.



CDC graphic

Fit-testing

Before any dust mask can be worn, a fit-test must be done.

A fit-test is required to make sure the dust mask does not leak around the edges.



[YouTube video –
respirator fit-test](#)

Our fit-testing procedures

Dust masks and physical fitness – medical evaluation

Medical evaluations are required for anyone required to wear a respirator.

Breathing through a respirator is work for the body.

Respirators can be hazardous to people with heart or lung problems.



Medical questionnaire for respirator users

The first step of a medical evaluation is a confidential medical questionnaire.

A healthcare provider reviews the questionnaire and decides if you need a medical exam.

The results are only used to determine if you are fit to wear a dust mask.



Medical evaluations

Our procedures for medical evaluations is as follows:

OR

We will send you to the following healthcare provider for your medical evaluation:

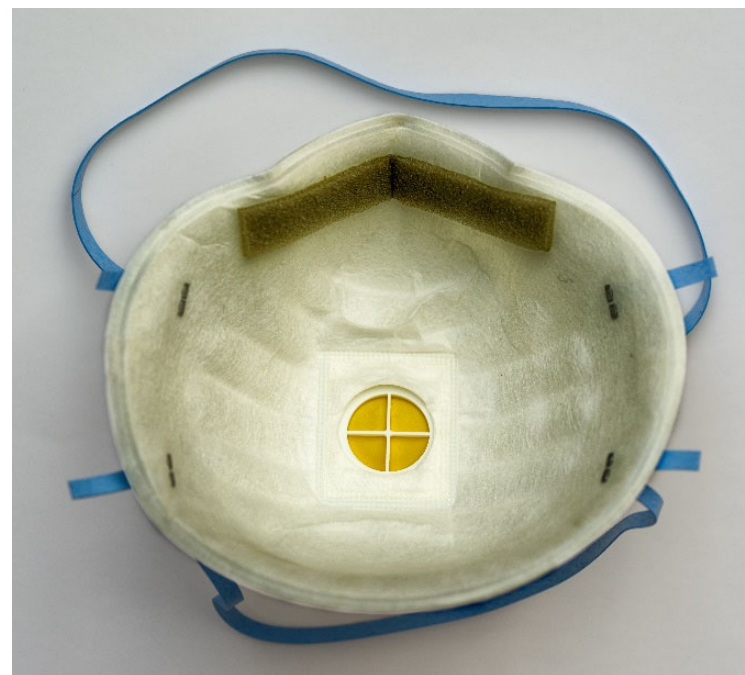
Replacing dust masks

Dust masks cannot be cleaned or repaired if soiled or damaged.

In many cases, dust masks will need to be replaced daily.

Replace dust masks immediately if breathing becomes difficult, if they are damaged or if they are dirty or dusty on the inside.

[YouTube video – wearing an N-95 respirator](#)



Toss this mask!

When it smells bad or you feel sick

Remember, dust masks provide no protection from gases or vapors.

If you notice an odor, feel ill or your mask leaks, leave the area immediately and notify your supervisor.



Respirators for high dust levels

