



Eye and Face Protection: *Safety Goggles*

Safety goggles offer effective protection from impact, flying particles from many different directions and chemical splashes- more than that offered by safety glasses. They should be worn in the lab to protect from chemical fumes and splashes as well as worn during grinding, chipping, woodworking and riveting operations. Specially designed goggles may be worn over your regular prescription glasses. If you wear contact lenses, let your supervisor know. Contact lenses may be hazardous to your eyes in combination with certain chemical use or operations.



Types of Safety Goggles

Goggles are surrounded by a shield that fits snugly on the face all the way around the eyes. **Splash goggles** are not ventilated for the greatest possible protection against chemical splashes and hazardous mists and dusts. They must be specially coated to prevent fogging. **Respirator goggles** are designed with a high nose bridge so they can fit with a half mask respirator. **Rubber frame goggles** protect from fast moving fine dust rather than major impact hazards. **Wire-screen goggles** have a wire-mesh lens instead of a glass or plastic lens to provide the greatest ventilation while protecting from flying particles. **Visor goggles** provide shading from overhead lights and extra protection from falling chips and particles. **Tinted goggles** reduce glare from bright lights or molten materials.

Choosing the Right Goggles

When choosing your goggles or other protective eyewear, make sure they are certified by the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) to conform to the American National Standards Institute eyewear standards. Select goggles that fit snugly but comfortably around the bridge of the nose, cheeks, temples and forehead. The strap around the base of the head should hold the goggles secure. If your work requires side vision for complete safety, keep this in mind when you choose goggles or consider using safety glasses instead.

Care and Use

Keep your goggles as clean as possible according to the manufacturer's instructions (use water only to clean them) will minimize any interference with your vision. Avoid storing your goggles with other things on top of them that could bend or distort them. Replace scratched or cracked lenses; scratches lessen the impact resistance of the goggles and impair your ability to see.

Safety goggles can protect you from many kinds of hazards but only if you wear them. Make it a habit to wear your goggles on the job, and your eye-safety outlook will always be 20/20.

