

Personal Protective Equipment

Toolbox Talk

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can help protect employees from physical and health hazards while in the workplace. Employers should check their workplaces for physical and health hazards that may require the use of PPE. If hazards are found that cannot be controlled by engineering or administrative means, the employer needs provide employees suitable PPE and train them in its use. Trained employees must be able to demonstrate that they understand how to wear, clean, and store the PPE correctly.

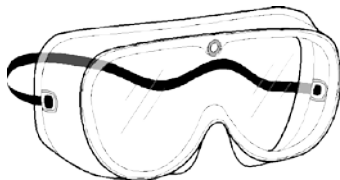
Physical hazards can include:

- Falling, moving, or flying objects;
- Heat or cold;
- Moving equipment and/or parts; and
- Sharp objects.

Health hazards can include:

- Chemical exposure; and
- Materials that can be inhaled or irritate the eyes or skin.
- Sound levels above an average of 85 decibels (dB) for eight hours.

The PPE used by a worker depends on the nature of the hazard.

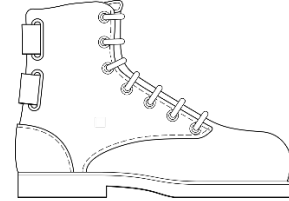


1) Guard the eyes! Workers should always wear goggles, safety glasses, or face shields when working with or around chemicals or any potentially infectious materials that could get into the eyes.



2) Protective gloves made of rubber, neoprene, or vinyl can protect workers' hands from chemicals,

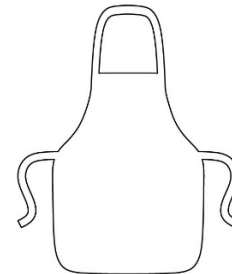
keeping them injury free. Workers should check with their supervisor before using gloves, because different types of gloves protect the hands from different chemicals.



3) Protective footwear can keep feet safe from many hazards. Workers should wear shoes with metal toe protectors when handling heavy objects that could crush their feet and wear rubber or chemical resistant boots when working near chemicals, water, or sewage.



4) Workers should wear a hardhat or helmet when they may encounter falling objects or bumping hazards.



5) Some jobs require a fully protective suit or apron to keep the worker's body protected from workplace hazards on the job.

Any worker who is unsure about what PPE to use or doesn't have the appropriate PPE should ask their supervisor.

