

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ...

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## Personal Protective Equipment

### Controlling the Hazard

Controlling a hazard at its source is the best way to protect employees. Depending on the hazard or workplace conditions, safety professionals recommend the use of engineering or work practice controls to manage or eliminate hazards to the greatest extent possible. For example, building a barrier between the hazard and the employees is an engineering control and changing the way in which employees perform their work is a work practice control. When engineering, work practice and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to their employees and ensure its proper use.

PPE is equipment worn to minimize exposure to serious workplace injuries and illnesses. PPE may include items such as: gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, or coveralls, vests and full body suits.

### What can be done to ensure proper use of personal protective equipment?

All PPE should be of safe design and construction, and should be maintained in a clean and reliable fashion. PPE should fit well and be comfortable to wear, encouraging worker use. If the PPE does not fit properly, it can make the difference between being safely covered or dangerously exposed.

### The employer is required to train each worker required to use personal protective equipment to know:

- When it is necessary
- What kind is necessary
- How to properly put it on, adjust, wear and take it off
- The limitations of the equipment
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the equipment

### Do:

- Do maintain PPE in a clean sanitary, serviceable condition.
- Do make sure to have PPE meet applicable recognized performance standards, such as ANSI, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, OSHA, etc.

### Do Not:

- Do not use PPE in lieu of sound engineering practices.
- Do not use PPE without proper training in its use and limitations.
- Do not use damaged or inferior equipment.



#ppe