

Care and Maintenance of Respirators

- A. The employee is responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of his/her own respirator. And must ensure that it is ready to use when needed.
- B. The employee must inspect all equipment before and after each use. Emergency equipment self-containing breathing apparatus for emergency use) must be inspected before and after each use or at least monthly. A record must be kept of all emergency equipment inspection with the results recorded. All respirators will be inspected for the following (depending on type) :
 1. Tightness of connections
 2. Conditions of face piece
 3. Conditions of head bands
 4. Conditions of cartridges
 5. Conditions of valves
 6. Pliability of rubber or elastomer parts
 7. Deterioration of rubber or elastomer parts
- C. Any problems with the respirator should be reported to the employee's immediate supervisor.
- D. Routinely used respirators issued for the exclusive use of an employee must be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to be maintained in a sanitary condition. Routinely used respirators issued to more than one employee must be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Respirators maintained for emergency use must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- E. To clean and disinfect, carry out the following procedures:
 1. Remove the air purifying elements (cartridges, filters) from the respirator. They should never be washed and disinfected.
 2. Immerse the respirator in a warm (110°F [43°] maximum) aqueous solution with a mild detergent cleaner recommended by manufacturer. The respirator face piece and parts may be scrubbed gently with a soft brush.
 3. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:
 - a) A solution of approximately 0.8 milliliters of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 110°F; or
 - b) A solution of approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (50 ppm iodine) to one liter of water at 110°F
 4. After washing, rinse thoroughly with warm water (110°F) and allow to air dry or dry with clean, lint free cloth.
 5. After the respirator is completely dry, inspect for defects, attach the air purifying elements, and store in clean plastic bag.
 6. Do not hang respirators on the wall; always store in plastic bag or container. The face piece and exhalation valve must be in a normal position to prevent abnormal set of elastomer parts. All respirators must be stored in a manner that protects them from damage, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, or damaging chemicals.
 7. If any part of the respirator is unacceptable, replace that part or the entire respirator may be more dangerous than not wearing a respirator at all.