

EYE PROTECTION

1 It's important to wear eye protection in the workplace.

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to provide eye and face protection wherever there is a chance of eye injury.
- OSHA also requires employees to wear the protective eyewear that employers provide.

2 Protective eyewear can protect against various eye hazards.

OSHA requires you to wear eye and face protection whenever you are exposed to the following hazards:

- *Dust and debris*
- *Flying objects or particles*
- *Molten metal*
- *Liquid chemical splashes*
- *Acids or caustic liquids*
- *Chemical gases or vapors*
- *Potentially damaging light radiation*
- *Glare*
- *Biohazards*

3 Learn how to select the proper protection.

- Consider the degree of hazard and select the eyewear that protects the greatest possible hazard level.
- You may need to wear a combination of protection to guard against multiple hazards.

4 Become familiar with all types of eye and face protection.

- **Safety Glasses:**
 - » Safety glasses are the minimum required eye protection.
 - » Use safety glasses wherever there is minor dust, chips, or flying particles.
- **Goggles:**
 - » Goggles offer greater protection from high-impact hazards and fine dust, as well as chemical splashes.
 - » Choose goggles with direct venting when working with large particles.
- **Face Shields:**
 - » Use face shields for the highest impact hazards and for protection from spraying, chipping, grinding, and critical chemical or bloodborne hazards.
 - » Always wear safety glasses or goggles under a face shield.
- **Welding Goggles, Helmets, and Shields:**
 - » Welding goggles and welding helmets or shields have special filtered shades that protect against welding light, which can cause severe burns to the eye.

5 Take extra care with prescription eyewear.

Streetwear prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses are generally not suitable as eye protection. Consider these options instead:

- Wear prescription eyewear with special impact-resistant frames and lenses. Polycarbonate or Trivex® lenses are the most suitable for high-impact areas.
- Wear special prescription inserts that fit inside goggles or inside full-face respirators without breaking the seal.



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