



Respirator responsibilities—workers

To protect you from breathing contaminated air, you may be required to wear a respirator. Examples of dangerous air contaminants are gases and vapours, dusts, fibres, mists, fumes, bacteria, spores, and pollen.

What are your responsibilities?

Before you wear your respirator

- Participate in the selection and fitting of your respirator.
- Check that you have the right respirator for the job. **Single-strap dust masks and surgical masks do not provide respiratory protection.**
- Make sure you are instructed and trained in the proper use of your respirator, including how to fit and wear it, and how to clean, inspect, maintain, and store it.

When you put on your respirator

- Fit test your respirator when you get it and at least once a year.
- Seal check your respirator each time you put it on. Make sure nothing interferes with the seal (for example, facial hair, glasses, or earmuffs).
- Wear your respirator when required and follow safe work procedures.

When you take off your respirator

If your respirator is reusable:

- Clean and inspect it, and report any damage to your supervisor or employer.
- Place it in a clean resealable bag and store it in a clean, safe place such as a cabinet or locker.

If your respirator is disposable:

- Check for damage and replace as necessary.



Disposable respirator



Participate in the selection and fitting of your respirator, and consider all other PPE that will be worn.

Let your supervisor or employer know if you have any doubts about your ability to wear a respirator for medical reasons. You may require a medical assessment. The doctor will need to know the type of respirator you will be wearing and why you will be wearing it. If possible, bring it along to the appointment.

For more information see the WorkSafeBC publication *Breathe Safer*.