

AgSafe Safe Work Practice

HAZARDS

It is important to take care of your respirator because:

- Your respirator is an important piece of safety equipments. It helps protect you from breathing in harmful contaminants.
- In order to be effective each time you use it, your respirator must be in good condition.

PRECAUTIONS / PROTECTION FROM THE HAZARDS

- Don't store respirators on the dashboard of a truck, in an enclosed cab, on a work bench or near pesticide containers. Cartridges can absorb anything from cigarette smoke to engine exhaust, and may not work the next time around.
- Only handle your respirator with clean hands.
- Disassemble your respirator before you clean it.
- Store your respirator away from dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture and damaging chemicals.
- Don't store your respirator with personal clothing or in pesticide contaminated areas.
- Take good care of your respirator by knowing how to inspect and clean it.
- Use a different respirator if you spot any worn, damaged or missing parts.
- Leave the contaminated area and change the cartridges when you detect odours or irritation.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE ACTIVITY OR TOOL/EQUIPMENT

How to inspect your non-disposable respirator:

1. Stretch the elastic on the straps. Be sure the elastic isn't coming loose. Also check the straps for tears.
2. Check the face piece for cracks and other damage. Inspect the face seal. Make sure nothing interferes with the fittings. Check for dirt, cracks or tears.
3. When you perform fit tests on your respirator, you will be able to tell if the valves are working properly.
4. Look for any other worn, damaged or missing parts. If you spot a problem, get a different respirator. Report the problem to your supervisor so the respirator can be repaired.

Cleaning your non-disposable respirator:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Disassemble your respirator before cleaning. Check the written instructions that come with the respirator.
3. Hand wash the face piece in warm water. Use a disinfecting soap, recommended by the manufacturer. Then thoroughly rinse it off.
4. Clean the inhalation and exhalation values with disinfecting soap.
5. Cartridges and filters CANNOT be cleaned. They may be reused or disposed of, depending on their condition.
6. Let all the parts you have cleaned, air dry before you put the respirator back together.

Note: You can use disposable wipe pads to wipe off your respirator in between uses, during the workday. The wipe pads come in small packets, and can be taken with you when you work.

PROPER CARE, CLEANING & STORAGE OF YOUR RESPIRATOR

Where to store your respirator:

- Store your respirator in a cool dry place, out of the sunlight.
- Cartridges should be removed from the respirator and stored in a standard zipper-lock plastic bag.

Please use the AgSafe Safe Work Procedures as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures