

AgSafe Safe Work Practice

HAZARDS

Dust/Mist Respirators:

- Always have two straps. They should never be confused with single-strap masks which are only for non-toxic nuisance dusts.
- Will help protect a greenhouse worker's lungs by removing small particles of dust and non-oil based mist, from the air they breathe.
- Will NOT protect a greenhouse worker against pesticide vapours or gaseous contaminants.
- Will protect a greenhouse worker's lungs against most dust, mists, pollen, and certain low toxicity pesticides as specified on the label.

PRECAUTIONS / PROTECTION FROM THE HAZARDS

- Only use a dust/mist respirator if it's approved for the hazards you are protecting yourself against.
- To wear a dust/mist respirator, you must be clean shaven and not have a beard, moustache, long sideburns, a deep facial scar or deformity.
- Don't wear a dust/mist respirator if you have lung disease, heart problems or breathing problems. Talk to your supervisor, who may recommend you get a doctor's advice before using a respirator.
- Before using the respirator, fit test it each time you put it on.
- Check with your supervisor for which type of respirator you should use.
- Throw away the respirator if the face piece tears or straps get stretched out.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE ACTIVITY OR TOOL/EQUIPMENT

How to put on a dust/mist respirator:

1. Hold the respirator in your hands with the nose piece toward your fingertips.
2. Position the mask over your mouth and nose.
3. Pull the top strap over your head. This strap goes over the back of the head above your ears.
4. Pull the shorter bottom strap over your head, below your ears. It goes around your neck.
5. Some respirators have metal tabs on the nose piece. Use both index fingers to hold the metal nose piece to the shape of your nose.
6. Adjust the face piece and straps for a comfortable fit.
7. Check the written material that comes with your respirator for additional fitting instructions.

How to fit test a dust/mist respirator:

1. Check your dust/mist respirator for the proper fit each time you put it on.
2. Cup both hands in front of the mask, but be careful not to push on the mask or move it.
3. Inhale deeply. Check to see if the face piece collapses toward your face.
4. Smile, then frown.
5. If the mask is drawn in and no air is leaking in around the edges, you have a proper fit.
6. If you don't have a proper fit, try readjusting the straps or repositioning the respirator on your face. Repeat the test until you have a proper fit.
7. Check the written material that comes with the respirator for other specific fitting instructions.

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