

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

How Can You Protect Your Eyes?

The first step in preventing eye injuries is to use engineering controls such as equipment guards, good ventilation and lighting, followed by the use of personal protective equipment. Your employer must provide eyewashes to minimize damage once an injury has occurred.

Personal Protective Equipment for the Eye

A wide variety of safety equipment is available to keep you safe and injury free. Protective eye and face equipment must comply with ANSI guidelines and be marked directly on the piece of equipment (e.g., glasses frames and lenses).

Safety glasses

The most common type of protective equipment for the eyes is safety glasses. They may look like normal street-wear glasses, but they have much stronger lenses, are impact resistant, and come in prescription or nonprescription forms. Safety frames are heat-resistant and stronger than street-wear frames. They also help prevent lenses from being pushed into your eyes.



Safety glasses also are available with side shield guards. Semi-side shields provide protection for the sides of your eyes. Eye-cup side shields provide more thorough eye protection from hazards that come from the front, side, top, or bottom.

Goggles

Goggles are very similar to safety glasses but fit closer to the eyes. They can provide additional protection in hazardous situations involving liquid splashes, fumes, vapors, and dust. Some models can be worn over prescription glasses and others are made with fabric eye cups to provide better ventilation.