

Respirator Selection Guide for Home Maintenance and Hobbyists

Respirators help protect you from breathing in harmful dust and chemical vapors while working on projects. Repeated exposure to unhealthy levels of dusts and vapors can cause serious health problems. It can be prevented by choosing the right respirator.

Choosing the Right Respirator

Disposable N95 Respirator



- Good for protection against dusts.
- Does not protect against gases and vapors.

Reusable Elastomeric Respirators



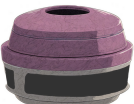
- Uses replaceable cartridges for different chemical exposures and dust.

Elastomeric Cartridge Options



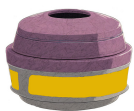
P100

Protects against **dusts** and **oils** (lubricants, cutting fluids, glycerin). Does not protect against vapors.



OV

Protects against **organic vapors** from solvents and paint. Commonly found as OV/P100 combination cartridge.



AG

Protects against **acid gases** like bleach and chlorine. Commonly found as AG/OV/P100 combination cartridge.

Cartridge Change Out: Follow manufacturer guidelines for maximum usage. Replace when damaged, dirty, or difficult to breathe through. For chemicals with a smell it's best to change the cartridge before you can smell the chemical.

The table below will help you choose the right respirator for your project. If you have more questions on respirator selection for your project, contact the respirator manufacturer for advice. For additional safety information on a specific product, consult the manufacturer's SDS for the product's [safety data sheet \(SDS\)](#).

Respirators should always be used with other protection measures such as proper ventilation (fresh air), filtration, and exhaust.

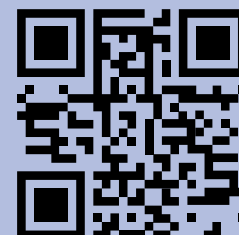
Application	Respirator	Comments
Cutting, Drilling, Sanding, Grinding	N95 or P100	Use P100 if using cutting oils
Dust: Cleaning, Demolition, Drywall Installation	N95 or P100	Use P100 for asbestos and lead paint
Soldering	N95 or P100	
Welding	N95, P100 or OV/P100	OV needed if generating gases (burning paint, oxy-fuel welding)
Painting (spray paint, latex, oil)	OV/P100	
Varnishing, Staining	OV/P100	
Using Cleaning Solvents	OV/P100	
Adhesives (glue, epoxy)	OV/P100	
Hot Cutting/Melting Plastic	OV/P100	
Using Bleach	AG	
Pool Maintenance (Chlorine)	AG	
Pesticides	Varies	Check pesticide label for respirator advice

Additional Resources

[CDC - How to Use Your N95 Respirator](#)

[CDC - Elastomeric Half Mask Respirator Resources](#)

[CDC- How To do a Seal Check](#)



For more information
on respirators please scan
the QR code