



Quick Reference Guide: Air-Purifying Non-Powered Elastomeric Respirators

Prior to wearing your respirator

- Ensure that you have been trained and fit-tested within the last 2 years
- Ensure you are clean-shaven where the respirator forms a seal with your face
- Ensure that you are wearing the respirator (same manufacturer, model and size) that you have been successfully fit-tested with
- Review the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator

Inspection

- Inspect the different components (face piece, harness, and cartridges/filters) before each use
- Check straps for loss of elasticity and signs of wear such as cracking, tears, and loose or broken buckles
- Inspect the face piece for cracks, holes, tears and distortion
- Check the input and output valves for missing or worn valve covers, cracks, and dirt
- Report any defects or damage to your supervisor and have them repaired by a qualified person or replace your respirator with a new one.

Putting on your elastomeric respirator

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator
- Ensure any adjustments to the respirator are performed away from the contaminated work area



1. Hold the mask over your nose and chin. Position the head strap above your ears and over the crown of your head, and adjust it.



2. Position the neck strap below your ears and around your neck.



3. Fasten the clasp of the neck strap.



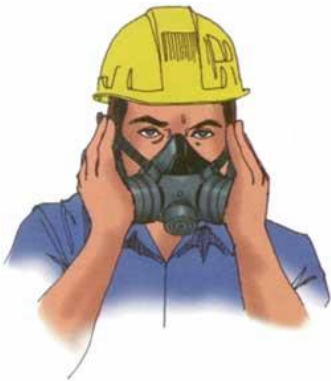
4. Adjust all the straps equally on both sides of the respirator.



Seal/Field Checks

- Seal/field checks using both the negative and positive pressure methods must be performed **every** time you put on a respirator

Negative Pressure Check



- Cover the cartridges or filters with your hands and breathe in slightly to create a vacuum
- Hold for a few seconds
- Feel for any leakage around the seal of the respirator
- If leakage is detected, make adjustments and repeat the seal check until the fit is satisfactory

Positive Pressure Check



- Cover the exhalation valve with your hand and gently exhale. Do not exhale too forcefully as this may break the seal.
- Hold for a few seconds
- Feel for any leakage around the seal of the respirator
- If leakage is detected, make adjustments and repeat the seal check until the fit is satisfactory

Cleaning your elastomeric respirator

- Respirators should be cleaned and disinfected after use on each shift or more often if necessary, if they are used exclusively by one worker.
- They must be cleaned and disinfected after each use if they are used by more than one worker.
- The following are general instructions for respirator cleaning and disinfecting. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for your specific respirator.

- Remove the filters or cartridges as they must not get wet or damp
- Disassemble the respirator
- Discard or repair any defective parts
- Wash with soap and water
- Rinse well with clean, warm water to remove any soap residue from the respirator. Residual soap left on the face piece can cause skin irritation.
- Allow the respirator components to air dry or dry with a cloth
- Re-assemble the respirator, making sure all pieces, especially the valves and gaskets, are in their correct positions.
- Re-attach filters or cartridges.



Reference: WorkSafeBC publication *Breathe Safer*. www.worksafebc.com