

**Protect Yourself**
**Respirators**

Respiratory protection must be worn whenever you are working in a hazardous atmosphere. The appropriate respirator will depend on the contaminant(s) to which you are exposed and the protection factor (PF) required. Required respirators must be NIOSH-approved and medical evaluation and training must be provided before use.

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| **Single-strap dust masks** are usually not NIOSH-approved. They must not be used to protect from hazardous atmospheres. However, they may be useful in providing comfort from pollen or other allergens.  | Single-strap dust masks |
| **Approved filtering facepieces** (dust masks) can be used for dust, mists, welding fumes, etc. They do not provide protection from gases or vapors. DO NOT USE FOR ASBESTOS OR LEAD; instead, select from the respirators below. | Approved filtering facepieces |
| **Half-face respirators** can be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.  | Half-face respirators |
| **Full-face respirators**are more protective than half-face respirators. They can also be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. The face-shield protects face and eyes from irritants and contaminants. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.  | Full-face respirators |
| **Loose-fitting powered-air-purifying respirators** (PAPR) offer breathing comfort from a battery-powered fan which pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout helmet/hood. They can be worn by most workers who have beards. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.  | Loose-fitting powered-air-purifying respirators |
| **A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** (SCBA) is used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient. They use their own air tank.  | A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus |

**For more complete information:**

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| OSHA | Occupational Safety and HealthAdministration |

U.S. Department of Labor
[www.osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov/index.html) (800) 321-OSHA

OSHA 3280-10N-05