

Eye Protection Primer

Most workplace eye injuries can be prevented by wearing eye protection and following safe practices. Choose your eye protection carefully.

Safety glasses protect against minor dust, chips and flying particles. Polycarbonate lenses are the strongest, lightest and most impact resistant. Glass lenses provide good scratch-resistance and can withstand chemical splashes.

Goggles provide higher impact and dust protection than safety glasses. Goggles for protection against splashing or fine dust should have indirect venting. Use direct-vented goggles when working with large particles.

Face shields protect the entire face from spraying, chipping, grinding, chemicals and blood-borne hazards. Wear safety goggles or glasses with face shields for extra protection.



Welding helmets must have an appropriate filter lens when arc welding or arc cutting. The lens must be marked with a shade number (1.5-14, 14 being darkest).

ANSI Z136-certified eye protection is to be used for laser light hazards.

Prescription safety glasses can be worn alone, but should have side protection. In high impact areas or high dust environments, wear goggles or face shields with prescription safety glasses.

Objects or chemicals going around or under protective eyewear cause 90 percent of injuries to workers wearing eye protection. Make sure your eye protection fits properly.



Focus on Vision Protection

1. Wear the appropriate eye protection for the job
2. Use machine guards, screens and other safety devices
3. Make sure eye protection fits properly

Your sight is one of your most valuable assets. A simple slip, splash or flying debris can cause damage that lasts a lifetime. Protect your vision by taking precautions and wearing the right protective eyewear for the job.

Prevent On-The-Job Eye Injuries

- **Check for hazards** in or near your work area.
- **Use machine guarding**, work screens or other safety engineering controls to reduce hazards.
- **Wear protective eyewear** that meets OSHA's current standards — ANSI Z87.1 certified. Eye gear should be marked Z87 on the frame or lens.
- **Don't substitute** ordinary prescription glasses or contact lenses for safety eyewear.
- **Make sure** your protective eye gear fits comfortably and snugly.
- **Inspect** your eye protection regularly for wear and tear. Replace damaged or worn gear immediately.
- **Know** where eye wash stations and showers are located.
- **Take advantage** of eye protection training programs, and review your safety policy regularly.
- **Have your eyes examined** every two years, even if you aren't experiencing any trouble.

