



eSafetyLine

Best Choice for Eye Protection

Every jobsite presents different hazards and different ways that eye injury can occur and will require different eye protection. It can be difficult for a worker to choose the type of protection is best for the job. The most important factor to remember when choosing the correct eye protection is that any lens used meets the minimum standards for protection. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) requires that approved lens be marked by the manufacturer with Z87. This allows the worker to know that the eye protection meets the minimum standard. But this is only the first step.

When choosing eye protection the type of work being done must be factored in. Many types of eye protection use approved lens, the type used needs to be based on the hazards that will be encountered on the jobsite. Some of the more common types include:

Safety Glasses or Safety Spectacles

- Are made with:
 - Safety frames with ANSI Z87.1 glass or plastic lens
 - Temple and side shields
- They provide minimal protection so they are best used in situations with minimal amounts of particles and limited impact including:
 - Carpentry
 - Woodworking
 - Grinding
 - Scaling

Goggles

- Can be made with
 - Vinyl frames with a soft, flexible body
 - Clear or tinted ANSI approved lens, usually plastic
- Are stronger than safety glasses

- Can be used over prescription glasses for protection with proper vision
- Are used for higher impact protection, greater particle protection and chemical splash protection
- Appropriate tasks include
 - Sawing
 - Chipping
 - Grinding
 - Masonry work
 - Using a nail gun
 - Working with chemicals

Face Shields

- Consist of
 - Adjustable headgear
 - Face shield of tinted or transparent plastic or wire mesh
- Are for the highest impact danger
- Should be used in to protect the whole face against flying particles, metal sparks and chemical or biological splash
- Should always be used over safety glasses or goggles since particles or chemicals can go around the face shield
- Appropriate tasks include
 - Spraying
 - Chipping
 - Grinding
 - Chemical splashes
 - Blood borne hazards

Discussion Questions

Which type of eye protection is best to use while using a table saw?

When wearing a face-shield is it necessary to also wear goggles or safety glasses?