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## **EYE PROTECTION**

Safety glasses are required on virtually all industrial and construction job sites. Safety glasses provide high levels of protection but are not invincible. The following basic housekeeping steps can dramatically reduce your chance of eye injuries:

- Inspect tools, especially impact tools, before each use. Chisel heads or hammers that have mushroomed or cracked must be dressed so no shards break off.
- Use a properly-filtered vacuum to clean up dust. Dry-sweeping and blowing with compressed air is banned by many OSHA standards, like the new Silica standard. If nuisance dust is dry-swept, a sweeping compound can reduce the dust released into the air. Outdoors, a water spray can be effective and prevent dust from becoming airborne.
- Use safety glasses rated to provide appropriate protection. The Z87 rating should be located on the glasses.
- Wear safety glasses while you are working. Studies consistently show the most common reason provided for not wearing PPE is discomfort. Provide workers with a few shape and style options to give them a comfortable pair of glasses they won't mind wearing all day.
- Don't just wear your safety glasses at the workplace. If you wear them when working at home, you'll eventually train yourself to automatically put them on when beginning work.

As with most safety concerns, PPE is a piece of the protective strategy and the last line of defense. Perform a hazard analyses before you begin work, and use appropriate controls to reduce the risk of injury so your PPE can protect you from anything out of the ordinary.



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