

Selecting Eye Protection

Eye protection is designed to protect workers from eye hazards. Those hazards can include chemicals, biological agents, and projectiles.

Protective Eyewear

- **Safety glasses** with side shields can protect from moderate impact and particles encountered in job tasks like carpentry, woodworking, grinding, scaling, etc. Safety glasses are also available in prescription form or can fit over eyeglasses.
- **Safety goggles** can offer protection from many hazards and fit tightly against the face to fully protect the eyes. Safety goggles are available with clear or tinted lenses and vented or non-vented frames. Some safety goggles are designed to fit over eyeglasses.
- **Face shields** are used when the entire face needs protection and should be worn to protect eyes and face against flying particles, metal sparks, and chemical/biological splashes. NOTE: Face shields must be worn with safety goggles or safety glasses.
- **Laser safety eyewear** is selected based on ANSI standards for the classification of the laser in use.
- **Welding goggles/shields** protect workers' eyes and face from infrared or radiant light burns, flying sparks, metal spatter and slag chips encountered during welding, brazing, soldering, and cutting operations.
- **Contact lenses and eyeglasses/sunglasses** are **NOT** approved protective eyewear.

Quick Take

- Select protective eyewear appropriate for the type of hazard.
- Protective eyewear must be ANSI Z87.1 compliant.
- Contact lenses and eyeglasses/sunglasses are **NOT** approved protective eyewear.
- Refer to the [Personal Protective Equipment policy](#) for more info.



Protective eyewear will not provide unlimited protection. Other measures, like machine guarding and good safety practices, must be used in combination with personal protective equipment.

Before selecting eyewear, a thorough hazard assessment must be completed. See the [PPE Hazard Assessment](#) form.