

RESPIRATOR FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RESPIRATORS

Q: Should I buy a respirator before being fit tested?

A: No, each person's fit is unique. The fit testing will identify a brand and size of respirator best suited for you. If you have been fit tested before and own a respirator, bring it with you to your annual fit test.

Q: Do I have to get fit tested every year?

A: Yes, your respirator may have damage that may not be identified during a visual inspection. Also, your physical condition may have changed over the year in a way that may affect your ability to wear a respirator. It is also the law.

Q: Do I have to shave my face before wearing a respirator?

A: Yes, you must shave every time prior to wearing your respirator. A good seal between your face and the respirator is essential; otherwise, you are still potentially exposing yourself to the fumigants.

Q: What type of cartridge do I need?

A: Check the label of the fumigant(s) you are applying and/or check with your fumigant supplier. Cartridges are not interchangeable for different makes and models of respirator (for example, 3M, Scott, MSA). Be sure that you have compatible cartridges for your model.

Q: Can I use my respirator in dusty conditions?

A: Yes, there is a particulate filter in your cartridges that will provide protection from dust.

Q: When should I change the cartridges on my respirator?

A: If breathing becomes restricted at all, replace the cartridges. If the expiration date has lapsed, replace the cartridges. For chemical-specific cartridge replacement guidance, follow recommendations provided by the chemical Material Safety Data Sheet and product label.

REMEMBER: An ineffective or damaged respirator can do more harm than good. It may give you false confidence that you are safe when you are not. It is very important to be familiar with your respirator and the product label requirements.

