



Respirator Cleaning Procedure

This procedure provides information for affected employees on how to clean their respirators in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard Appendix B-2 Respirator Cleaning Procedures (Mandatory) (29 CFR 1910.134 App B-2).

Department managers and supervisors are responsible for providing and ensuring that appropriate cleaning materials are available at no cost to affected employees. Affected employees issued a respirator for their exclusive use are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their respirator as often as necessary to maintain a sanitary condition. Shared respirators and respirators maintained for emergency use and fit testing are cleaned and disinfecting after each use and before being worn by different individuals.

In lieu of following this procedure, affected employees may use alternative cleaning methods recommended by the respirator manufacturer provided that the manufacturer's procedures are as effective as those described in this procedure, the respirator is properly cleaned and disinfecting in a manner that prevents damage to the respirator, and do not cause harm to the employee.

To successfully clean and disinfect their respirator, affected employees will:

1. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble the facepiece by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer.
 - a. Discard and replace any defective or missing parts.
 - b. Notify their supervisor if new parts or a new respirator is needed.
2. Wash components in warm water with a mild antibacterial detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer.
 - a. Use of a stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.
3. Rinse components thoroughly in warm water and drain all components.
4. Dry components by hand with a lint-free cloth or permit to air dry in a manner that does not deform the components.
5. Reassemble the facepiece and replace the filters, cartridges, or canisters if they are still in use.
6. Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly including a user seal check.