



Respirator Inspection, Donning and Doffing Procedure

This procedure provides information for affected employees on how to correctly inspect and don and doff a respirator in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134). This procedure is focused on the respirator models most commonly used by affected employees at the University.

I. Respirator Inspection (by User)

Prior to any respirator use, affected employees must inspect their respirator to ensure its function, the tightness of connections, and the condition of the various parts of the respirator including, but not limited to the facepiece, head straps, valves, connective tubing, and cartridges, canisters or filters, if applicable. Any elastomeric parts of the respirator must be checked for pliability and signs of deterioration. Affected employees must thoroughly wash their hands before donning and following doffing their respirator.

II. Respirator Donning and Doffing

Half Facepiece Respirators

Donning

1. Attach the appropriate filters, cartridges, or canisters to the facepiece.
2. Cup the respirator in your hand with the nosepiece at your fingertips, the top strap loosened and hanging below your hand, and the bottom straps unfastened.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with the respirator. Make sure nothing (e.g., facial hair, hair, or glasses) impacts the seal between your face and the respirator.
4. Pull the top strap over your head and adjust the head cradle to rest in a comfortable position on the crown of your head.
5. Fasten the bottom straps together behind your neck.
6. Adjust the tension of the top and bottom straps, as needed, to achieve a secure fit.
7. Conduct applicable user seal checks.

Doffing

1. Unfasten the bottom straps behind your neck.
2. Hold the facepiece in place with one hand, lean forward slightly, and remove the top strap over the crown of your head. Pull the respirator away from your face.
3. Wipe down the facepiece of the respirator with a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe. Allow to air dry.
4. Remove the filters, cartridges, or canister prior to storage.

Full Facepiece Respirators

Donning

1. Attach the appropriate filters, cartridges, or canisters to the facepiece. Fully loosen all head straps.
2. Pull hair back with one hand and bring the facepiece to your face with the other.
3. While holding the facepiece to your face, pull the straps over your head.
4. Tighten the bottom straps first, then tighten the top straps. Adjust tension, as needed, to achieve a secure fit.
5. Conduct applicable user seal checks.

Doffing

1. Hold the facepiece in place with one hand. Loosen the top straps, then the bottom straps.
2. Lean forward slightly and remove the straps over the crown of your head. Pull the respirator away from your face.
3. Wipe down the facepiece of the respirator with a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe. Allow to air dry.
4. Remove the filters, cartridge, or canisters prior to storage.

N95 and Other Disposable-style Air Purifying Respirators

Donning

1. Cup the respirator in your hand with the nosepiece at your fingertips and the straps hanging below your hand.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with the respirator. Make sure there are no gaps and nothing (e.g., facial hair, hair, or glasses) impacts the seal between your face and the respirator.
3. Pull the top strap over your head and adjust it to rest in a comfortable position at the top back of your head.
4. Pull the bottom strap over your head and adjust it to rest in a comfortable position around the back of your neck. The top and bottom straps should not crisscross.
5. Adjust straps, as needed, to increase tension and fit comfort.
6. Use your fingertips to mold the metal nose band to conform to the shape of your nose and face.
7. Conduct applicable user seal checks.

Doffing

1. Touch the facepiece as little as possible while removing straps. Remove the bottom strap by pulling it over the back of your head.
2. Remove the top strap by pulling it over the back of your head and away from your face.
3. Store in a labeled paper bag or discard in the trash.

Powered Air Purifying Respirators

Donning

1. While the blower is running, don the PAPR belt.
2. With the breathing tube laying over your shoulder, adjust the plastic head suspension to an appropriate size and fit.
3. Gather the shroud and pull the hood over your head so the visor is in front of your face. Adjust the head suspension, as needed.
4. Adjust the elastic edge of the hood so that it contacts your face, resting under your chin and in front of your ears. Adjust facial hair, if applicable, so that it does not block contact between the elastic edge and your skin.
5. Once fit to the face, adjust the shroud so that it drapes over your shoulders.
6. Adjust the blower speed, as needed.

Doffing

1. If contamination of the hood is suspected, wipe down the exterior surface area of the hood and shroud with a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe.
2. Lean forward slightly and remove the hood by grabbing it from the top and pulling it away from your face.
3. Disconnect the hood from the breathing tube and set aside for further cleaning and decontamination.
4. Remove the PAPR belt.
5. Gently invert the blower prior to turning it off then disconnect the breathing tube from the blower.
6. Wipe down all exterior areas of the blower, breathing tube, and PAPR belt. Wipe down all interior and exterior areas of the hood.
7. Allow all parts of the system to air dry prior to disassembly and storage.