



# Safety Matters

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## Eye Protection

Work-related eye injuries affect thousands of people each year causing severe eye abrasions and even blindness. Experts believe that 90% of all eye accidents could be prevented with the proper use of eye protection.

OSHA requires employers to ensure the safety of employees' eyes in the work environment by providing eye goggles to protect against chemical, environmental, radiological or mechanical irritants.

### What are the Common Causes of Eye Injuries?

1. Flying objects such bits of metal, glass and wood
2. Tools
3. Particles
4. Chemicals
5. Harmful radiation
6. Any combination of these or other hazards



### Which Type of Eye Safety Protection Should I Wear?

The type of eye safety protection needed depends on the eye hazards in your work area.

If you are working in an area that has small particles, flying objects or dust, you will need to wear Safety Glasses with Side Protection Shields.



If you are working with chemicals, you should wear goggles with glass lenses.

If you are working near radiation, you must use special-purpose, hazardous material-blocking safety glasses, goggles, or face shields.



### What is the Difference Between Glass, Plastic, & Polycarbonate Safety Lenses?

Glass	Plastic	Polycarbonate
- Are not easily scratched	- Are extremely light weight	- Are light weight
- Can be used around harsh chemicals	- Protect eyes against welding spatter	- Protect eyes against welding spatter
- Can have corrective lenses added	- Are not likely to fog	- Are fog resistant
- Are sometimes heavy and uncomfortable	- Are more impact resistant than glass or plastic	- Are not as scratch resistant as glass

### What is Your Best Defense Against Eye Injuries?

Personal protective equipment (PPE) *alone* should not be relied on to protect against hazards. Use PPE in conjunction with guards, engineering controls, and sound manufacturing practices.

1. Know the eye safety dangers present where you work.
2. Complete an eye hazard assessment of your work area.
3. Eliminate hazards before starting work by using machine guards, work screens, or other engineering safety controls.
4. Use proper eye protection whenever there is a chance of an eye injury, even if it is only your projected path that may lead you into an eye injury.

Find more info at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/eyefaceprotection/index.html>

## Remember... Safety Matters.

