

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used as temporary (until more effective hazard<sup>1</sup> control techniques can be used) or last line of protection for workers against hazards. The PPE you use will depend on the work environment, the work conditions, and the process being performed.

Each piece of PPE has a specific use and may be made of specialized materials appropriate for one use, but not appropriate for another. For example, thick natural rubber gloves will protect the wearer from strong solutions of sodium hypochlorite (bleach<sup>2</sup>) for an 8 hour working day, but it will not protect them from ammonia hydroxide as effectively.



It is also important to remember that wearing the right PPE is important. PPE does not reduce the workplace hazard nor does it guarantee permanent or total protection for the wearer. Simply having Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available is not enough. In order to ensure the required level of protection :

- PPE should be selected considering the type of hazard and the degree of protection required.
- PPE should be useable in the presence of other workplace hazards.
- Users should be trained in proper use and fit of the PPE.
- PPE should be properly stored and maintained.
- If PPE is found to be defective, it should be discarded and replaced.

Wherever people work, there may be a need for PPE.

Adapted from [http://www.ccohs.ca/teach\\_tools/phys\\_hazards/ppe.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/teach_tools/phys_hazards/ppe.html)

<sup>1</sup> hazard : risque

<sup>2</sup> Bleach : eau de javel

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