




Hearing Protection



In general, if a workplace noise is loud enough that you could not hold a conversation with a person one arm length away, then a noise assessment must be performed by EH&S prior to PPE selection. Some exposures may require enrollment in the campus [Hearing Conservation Program](#) managed by OSU Environmental Health and Safety.

PPE	Specific Type	Characteristics	Applications
Ear Plugs		Disposable, inexpensive	Working with loud equipment, noises, sounds, alarms, etc.
Canal Caps		Inexpensive, easy to insert, not as effective as ear plugs, but easier to insert with soiled hands	Working with loud equipment, noises, sounds, alarms, etc.
Ear Muffs		Reusable, not as effective when worn with safety glasses	Working with loud equipment, noises, sounds, alarms, etc.