





# Respiratory Protection





When airborne contaminants cannot be adequately controlled by fume hoods and ventilation, then respiratory protection may be needed. The use of respiratory protection has very stringent regulatory requirements. For this reason, OSU has a [Respiratory Protection Program](#) to meet the requirements and provide the necessary training and documentation.

PPE	Specific Type	Characteristics	Applications
Dust Mask		May protect against dust, fumes, mists, microorganisms including animal allergens	Dusty environments, working with live animals or potentially infectious materials
N95 Respirator		Protects against dust, fumes, mists, microorganisms including animal allergens	Dusty environments, working with live animals or potentially infectious materials
Cartridge Respirator	Half-face Air-Purifying 	Protects against variety of particulates, vapors, dust, mists, fumes, or a combination of these; depends on filter or cartridge used	Dusty environments, potentially infectious materials, chemical vapors; particulates, and select gases (cartridge dependent)
	Full-face Air-Purifying 	Similar to half-face, but with greater protection factor, and greater protection of eyes and face; depends on filter or cartridge used	Dusty environments, potentially infectious materials, chemical vapors; particulates, and select gases (cartridge dependent)

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<p>Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)</p>		<p>Powered air purifying respirator; delivers steady supply of filtered air with loose fitting hood; can be used with HEPA filters or chemical cartridges</p>	<p>Working in some BSL-3 environments; high levels of chemical vapors, particulates</p>
<p>Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)</p>		<p>Bulky, limited operation time, highly protective.</p>	<p>Used in oxygen deficient atmospheres, Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) or areas of high concentrations or unknown airborne contaminants</p>