

# Respiratory Protection

## Maintaining Your Respirator

Each time you use your respirator, inspect it carefully before putting it on. Look for cracks, dents or holes in the mask, and broken or worn straps or buckles. Elastic straps that have lost their stretch need to be replaced. You need a new respirator if the flexible material around the edges of the respirator has become hard and brittle because it will no longer provide a tight seal on your face. Valves must be clean and functioning properly. Dry or cracked valves should be replaced. Replace your disposable respirator when it becomes clogged or breathing becomes difficult.

### Replace Filters

Check the cartridges or filters of your APR before each use. Are they changed according to company policy? Are they the right cartridges for your job? Remember, APR cartridges will filter out only the contaminants they were designed for. When replacing cartridges, be sure they are threaded properly and, of course, do pressure tests after replacing cartridges or filters.

### Maintenance

Your respirator should be maintained by persons trained to do so. New valves, hoses and other parts should be installed according to company policy or when they appear worn. Use only approved parts. Avoid exchanging parts from one model to another.

### Keeping It Clean

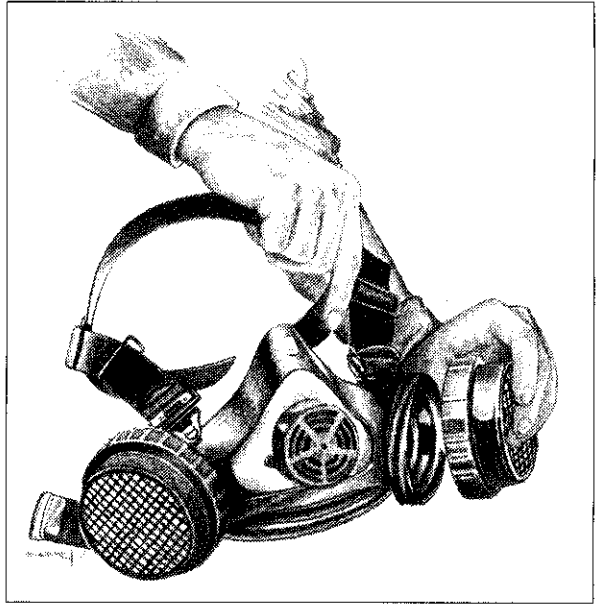
Clean your respirator after each use according to manufacturer's instructions. For most respirators this means washing in mild soapy water and scrubbing with a soft brush if necessary. Rinse in clean, warm water and dry according to instructions. If sanitizing is necessary, leave the respirator in the recommended disinfecting solution for at least two minutes and rinse thoroughly. Never use solvents or harsh cleaning agents on rubber or plastic parts.

### Storing It

Sunlight and chemicals in the atmosphere can damage your respirator. Seal your thoroughly dry respirator in a plastic bag and store it away from direct sunlight. Avoid placing objects on top of it; if it loses its shape it will not fit properly.


### Be Alert

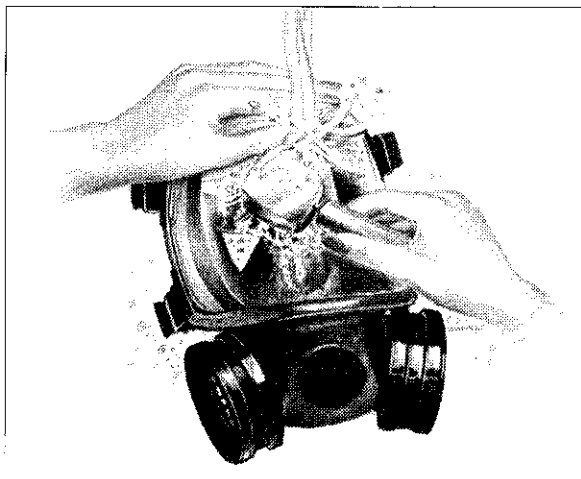
Your safety on the job depends on your ability to wear a properly functioning respirator and still do your job. Check with your supervisor if your respirator inter-



Change cartridges whenever your company's safety program recommends it. Use the right cartridge for the hazards you face and do pressure tests after replacing cartridges or filters.

feres with your ability to see, hear or be heard properly, or if it restricts movement so that you cannot safely do your work. If you experience difficulty breathing, fatigue, irritation in your eyes or respiratory system, dizziness or illness, leave the work area immediately and report to your supervisor. These could be warning signs that your respirator is not working properly.

Your on-the-job respiratory health is guaranteed when you properly maintain, store and use your respirator. 



Most manufacturers recommend cleaning your respirator in mild soapy water. You may need to use a soft brush to scrub away contaminants.