

## Safety Signs



Wear eye protection



Wear a lab coat



Wear protective gloves



Wear hearing protection



Wear respiratory protection



Wear a mask



Wear a face shield



Wear protective footwear

### Other leaflets available

- Hand / Arm Protection
- Eye Protection
- Foot protection
- Respiratory protection

### for further information:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/healthsafetywellbeing/guidance/personalprotectiveequipment>

### Or Contact

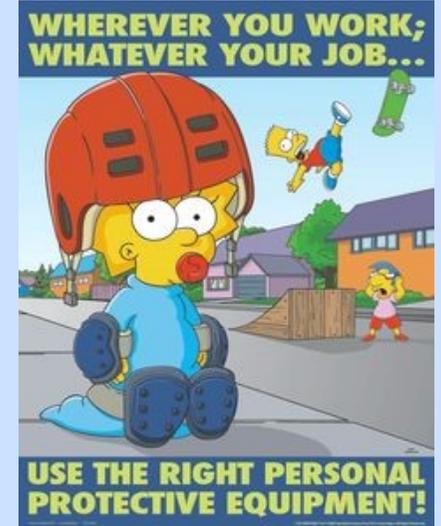
[Healthsafetyhelpdesk@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Healthsafetyhelpdesk@warwick.ac.uk)

### Notes

WARWICK  
Health & Safety Services

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# Personal Protective Equipment



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### What is PPE?

PPE is equipment that will protect the user against health or safety risks at work. It can include items such as safety helmets and hard hats, gloves, eye protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses etc.

Hearing protection and respiratory protective equipment, although not covered by the PPE regulations are included in the PPE guidance leaflets. However, these items need to be compatible with any other PPE provided.

### When is it Provided?

PPE must be provided and used where there is a risk to health and safety which cannot be adequately controlled by other means. Removing the hazard or using engineering controls at source protects everyone.

It is **Personal** to the wearer and only **protects the wearer**.

In practice PPE can be used in conjunction with other control measures.

**PPE should only be used when all other control measures have been considered, when identified in a risk assessment and when directed by a safety sign.**

### What is Required?

- PPE must be properly assessed before use to make sure it is fit for purpose.
- Must be suitable for the wearer
- Maintained and stored correctly.
- Instructions and training provided for users.



### Selection and Use

You should ask yourself the following questions:

- Who is exposed and to what?
- How long are they exposed for?
- How much are they exposed to?
- What PPE is required?  
⇒ Ensure that all PPE used is compatible with other pieces of PPE
- Does the PPE protect against the identified hazard?  
⇒ Check the appropriate **British Standard** for the required PPE.
- Ensure that users continue to use the PPE correctly.

### PPE Maintenance

PPE must be maintained and replaced as required. Specifically there is a need to:-

- Store in a safe, clean and secure place;
- Ensure that any issues/defects are reported by users and equipment is replaced as necessary;
- Users are trained to ensure they know how to clean/maintain/store it.

In addition to PPE, there will be occasions where the skin requires protection by the use of creams

- Use sun cream, minimum protection factor SPF 30 and re-apply regularly
- Moisturise hands after washing
- Use pre-work creams—this is not an alternative to gloves
- Check skin regularly for signs of dryness / cracking etc.



### Types of PPE

PPE covers items such as helmets, gloves, safety glasses, laboratory coats, respiratory protective equipment (dust masks), hearing protection and safety footwear.

**Eye Protection**—Safety Spectacles and goggles

**Face Protection**—Visors and face shields

**Hand & Arm Protection**—Gloves (disposable and re-useable), gauntlets and armllets

**Breathing Protection**—Dust and vapour respirators, air-fed helmets and breathing apparatus

**Feet & Legs**—Safety boots and shoes; chainsaw trousers / leg guards

**Body Protection**—Conventional / disposable overalls, thermal / waterproof coats and trousers, high visibility clothing

**Lab Coats** - Conventional, disposable, flame retardant, 'Howie' for biological work, back fastening for CL3, etc.

**Head Protection**—Helmets, hard hats, bump caps

**Hearing Protection**—Ear muffs, disposable earplugs, corded / banded earplugs

