

Eye Protection Use and Selection

Protective eyewear guards against different workplace hazards. It must have the Z87 marking. Select the correct product based on American National Standards Institute (ANSI) type and the specific risks associated with the task.

ANSI Z87		Protection basic impact	Limitations •no high-impact resistance •no droplet or splash protection •no dust or fine particle protection	Usage •construction site walkthroughs •light-duty tasks (e.g. manual sanding, packing boxes) •with hand tools
ANSI Z87+		Protection high impact	Limitations •no droplet or splash protection •no dust or fine particle protection	Usage •with drills or power tools •with lawn mowers or string trimmers
ANSI D3		Protection against droplets and splashes	Limitations •no dust or fine particle protection •fogs easily without anti-fog coating	Usage •with chemicals •when handling bodily fluids •with household cleaning products (e.g., bleach)
ANSI D4		Protection against dust, droplets, and splashes	Limitations •no fine particle protection •fogs easily without anti-fog coating	Usage •woodworking •dusty environments (e.g., above ceilings)
ANSI D5		Protection against fine particles, dust, droplets, and splashes	Limitations •fogs easily without anti-fog coating	Usage •abrasive blasting •buffing
ANSI Z78 FACE SHIELD		Protection splashes and basic impact	Limitations •not sufficient eye protection by itself •must pair with ANSI-approved safety glasses or goggles	Usage •welding •grinding •plumbing

Prescription Lenses

Wear ANSI-certified eyewear over your glasses and check for proper fit. For assistance obtaining ANSI-certified prescription eyewear, contact your supervisor or Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

Eye Protection for Welding and Torch Work

Use eye protection with shaded lenses for tasks like welding, arc cutting, and torch work. Contact EHS to ensure you have the appropriate level of protection. Always use safety glasses with side shields or goggles in addition to a welding helmet or face shield.

Maintenance and Care

Inspect protective eyewear for cracks, scratches, or other damage before each use. Keep eyewear clean and protect from damage. Replace when necessary.

Resources

Contact Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@northwestern.edu; visit northwestern.edu/environmental-health-safety/facility-safety/personal-protective-equipment.html; or scan the QR code.

