

## Respirator Cleaning and Storage

Respirator users must store their respirators to protect from damage or deformation (especially of the facepiece and exhalation valve), contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.

Respirators will be cleaned per the following:

- A. **Personal respirators:** Clean and disinfect as often as necessary to maintain in a sanitary condition.
- B. **SCBAs:** Clean and disinfect after each use.

These may be substituted by the cleaning recommendations provided by the respirator manufacturer, provided they are as effective as those outlined below and ensure the respirator is properly cleaned and disinfected in a manner that prevents damage to the respirator and does not cause harm to the user.

- A. Remove filters, cartridges, or canisters. Disassemble facepieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses, or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.
- B. Wash components in warm (110°F/43°C maximum) water with a mild detergent or cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.
- C. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:
  - i. Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) made by adding approximately one milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 110°F/43°C;
  - ii. Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45% alcohol) to one liter of water at 110°F/43°C; or
  - iii. Other commercially-available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if their use is recommended or approved by the respirator manufacturer.
- D. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (110°F/43°C maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on facepieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.
- E. Components should be hand-dried with a clean, lint-free cloth or air-dried.
- F. Reassemble the facepiece, replacing filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.
- G. Test the respirator to ensure all components work properly.

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