

# Environmental Health and Safety

October 2015



## Eye Injury Protection

In 2004, there was a total of 36,680 eye injuries among workers. 90% of these injuries could have been avoided by using PPE.

Every year about 125,000 eye injuries are caused by common household products.

Approximately 2,000 people have a work-related eye injury that requires medical attention in the United States each day.

90% of eye injuries can be prevented by wearing protective eyewear.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is any clothing or gear that is designed to protect against a hazard. For eye protection, this means safety glasses or goggles, face shields, etc. For both the home and the workplace, eye injuries are among the most common types of injuries.

Eye injuries can be prevented by wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment designed for the task at hand. There is a different type of safety equipment needed for each hazardous task, whether it is woodworking, mowing the lawn, or even spray painting.

These facts and suggestions should help you learn which PPE is appropriate for your work, and how you can choose which kind to wear in order to avoid eye injuries.

## Type of Eye Protection Based on Job/Hazard

### Low impact

Cutting bricks, hammering, chipping. Small fragments flying at low velocity.

### Medium impact (I)

Machine cutting of metals, woodworking. Objects of medium mass flying at medium velocity.

### High impact face shields (V)

Using power tools. Particles flying at high velocity.

### Gas resistant (G)

Chemical processes, spray painting. Gases and vapors can be accidentally inhaled.

### Molten metal resistant (M)

Metal casting, molten metal, hot solids. Splashing metals.

### Splash resistant (C)

Pickling baths, metal cleaning, handling corrosives. Liquid splashes.



## Resources

[NSC Focus on Eye Injury Prevention](#)

[Staying Safe with Eye Protection](#)

[Selecting PPE for the Workplace](#)

[CDC Eye Safety](#)

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**Don't learn safety by accident**