

TECH TIPS

Choosing the Correct Respirator

Because the type of respirator and filtering media you select is determined based upon the type of contaminant in your work environment. Gases and vapors are absorbed using activated charcoal. Dusts, mists, and fumes are absorbed using a filtering material. Some respirators may use a combination activated charcoal and filtering media when particles and vapors / gases are anticipated.

DUST MASK Work place applications include **grinding, sanding, buffing and other dusty/hot operations**. Some feature an exhalation valve which makes the respirators more comfortable for the technician especially in hot, humid conditions and helps to extend the life of the respirator as it is less likely to collapse due to moisture.

PARTICULATE RESPIRATOR Designed for the technician who is working in applications where a respirator is needed for protection against **grinding, welding, undercoating, sanding and asbestos exposures**.

DUEL CARTRIDGE RESPIRATOR Workers who perform **paint spray operations** know that using good respiratory protection products is absolutely necessary. Even brief, unprotected exposures to paint mists and vapors can cause irritation or lead to serious health problems. A change schedule based on objective information must be implemented for cartridges to ensure that they are changed before the end of their service life. Always store the respirator in a sealed container when not in use.

FRESH AIR SYSTEMS Fresh air systems used during **paint spray operations** are the most effective way to protect your lungs from exposure to dangerous elements that will drastically reduce or even prevent their ability to function. Diseases such as silicosis, isocyanate poisoning, emphysema, and even cancer can be directly attributed to breathing air that is contaminated with toxic vapors and mists. Polyurethane paint, for example, is formulated to produce a hard, shiny finish with the ability to last a long time. Isocyanates are produced as a by-product of catalysation. When isocyanate vapors are released from this paint and are allowed to enter our lungs and other parts of our body, they can harm them. Sandblasting with silica sand is another potential lung destroyer. Exposure to this fine sand material can cause silicosis, which is a form of cancer. An air supplied sandblasting hood is the only sure way to protect your lungs.

Check with your Auto Body Supply salesman to get the proper respirator for your application or to set up a respirator fit test.