

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries and illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, or mechanical hazards. The importance of PPE is paramount, as it provides the last line of defence against an injury.

**98%** of employees said they have seen others not wearing PPE when they should have been

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**30%** said this happens repeatedly

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## Top 4 excuses for not wearing proper PPE:

Looks unattractive

Too hot

Poor fit

Not easily accessible



**9%**

of all injuries are head injuries.



**50%**

of construction workers will suffer a serious eye injury during their career.



**25%**

of all workplace accidents involve hands and fingers.



**25%**

of workers are regularly exposed to noises at or above recommended limits

**84%**

of employees who sustain a head injury are not wearing head protection.

**90%**

of all workplace eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear.

Wearing gloves reduces hand injury risk by

**60%**

**99%**

of noise-induced hearing loss is preventable if proper hearing protection is used.

## Put It On!

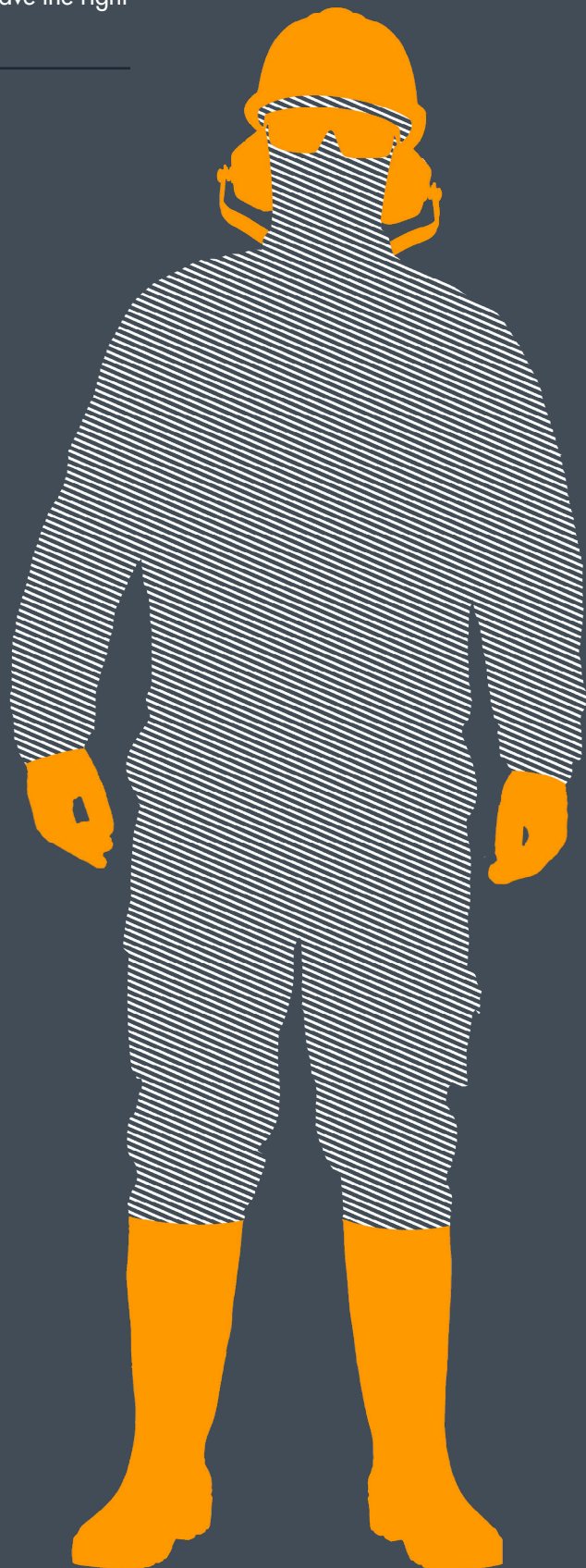
From head to toe, make sure you have the right protection for the job.

### Eyes

- Safety glasses and goggles provide protection from debris, dust, and chemicals.
- Goggles and glasses can be made with prescription lenses or designed to be worn over prescription glasses.

### Hands

- Gloves protect hands and fingers from cuts, heat, abrasions, and chemicals.
- It's impossible for a glove to remain 100% impervious to chemicals forever. Pay attention to the condition of gloves before donning them.
- Latex gloves or powders inside of gloves can cause reactions in some workers. Carefully monitor for any difficulty breathing, rashes, or swelling of the hands.



### Head

- Hard hats provide protection from impacts and in some cases, electrical shock.
- Never put stickers on your hard hat or leave it in the hot, back window of your car. Both of these actions can compromise the integrity of the materials.

### Ears

- Ear plugs or muffs provide protection from hearing loss.
- 85 decibels is the loudest environment you should regularly work in without hearing protection.
- A room full of people talking or a running dishwasher emits 85 decibels.

### Feet

- Work boots or shoes provide protection from falling or rolling objects or from penetration.
- High-ankle work boots provide the slip resistant, steel or hard toe protection of work shoes. They also provide protection from rolled ankles that result in strains and sprains.