

Cleaning Cartridge Respirators

Here are the main points when cleaning and storing cartridge respirators:

- Respirators should be cleaned after each use except disposable respirators or dust filter masks. These must be disposed of and not reused.
- Discard disposable respirators or dust filter masks after one use.
- Non-alcohol wipe pads can be used during intermittent use.
- Disassemble the respirator, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect the parts. Replace damaged or worn parts.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning.
- Wash reusable face pieces. They should be cleaned with a mild disinfecting soap. They should be rinsed and air dried before storing.
- Do not use strong cleaning agents and solvents. They can damage rubber or plastic respirator parts.
- Clean the inhalation and exhalation valves in a mild soap solution. Don't damage the valves during cleaning.
- Air-dry the parts that have been cleaned. They must be completely dry before they can be reassembled.
- After reassembling, check seals and gaskets for tightness and leaks.
- Wash hands before and after cleaning.

Cartridges and Filters

- Cartridges and filters cannot be cleaned.
- Dispose of cartridges and filters when they are used up:
 - When you can smell or taste contaminants.
 - When your eyes, nose, or throat become irritated.
 - When they show any sign of damage.

Storing Respirators

- Before you store respirators, clean them and let them dry. Store them as soon as they are dry so they don't collect dust.
- Store clean, dry respirators in nonporous, sturdy, airtight containers, like a zip-sealed plastic bag.
- Store cleaned respirators separate from cartridges.
- Store respirators in a cool, dry cabinet specifically designated for storage.
- When stored, position the respirator so that it keeps its natural shape.
- Exhalation valves and face pieces should lie in a normal position to prevent the plastic or rubber from being deformed.
- Store respirators to protect them from dust, sunlight, extreme heat or cold, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.