

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Why do you need a respirator?

Contaminants in the air are a major health risk in an auto body shop.



Isocyanates cause chest tightness, cough, wheeze and asthma.

Solvents cause eye, throat, nose and skin irritation. They also dull brain function and in some cases cause liver and kidney disease.

Metals, such as lead, arsenic, chromium, manganese and nickel, in sanding dust cause a variety of illnesses including cancer.

Dusts are irritating to the respiratory tract and can cause respiratory disease.

The proper respirator, with the proper cartridges, can protect you.

Which respirator should you wear?

Check the MSDS sheets for the appropriate respirator to use for the job you are doing.

- **Supplied air respirators** are recommended for spray painting.
- **Powered air purifying respirators** with OV cartridges and N95 paint pads may be sufficient.
 - Half face, negative pressure **cartridge respirators** are not recommended for spray painting with isocyanate paint because of poor warning qualities - by the time you can smell the isocyanates, they have reached toxic levels. Also this type respirator may not provide enough protection for big jobs. If you wear this type of respirator with OV cartridges and N95 paint pads, change the OV filters regularly.
- **Cartridge respirators**, with OV cartridges and N95 paint pads, may be used for solvent exposures, such as body filler application or small priming jobs.
- **Cartridge respirators**, with HEPA cartridges, may be used for dusty jobs, such as sanding or grinding. Change cartridges when they become clogged and it is difficult to breathe.
- **Dust masks** (N95 or N100) protect against non-toxic dusts, such as body filler dust.



When should you wear your respirator?

Respiratory protection is necessary for many body shop tasks including spraying, mixing, sanding and cleaning.

