

SAFETY BULLETIN



FR Cloth Masks Available to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Flame resistant (FR) cloth masks are now available and are being distributed to employees required to wear FR clothing. These FR cloth masks are only to be worn when:

- Social distancing cannot be maintained or entering an occupied customer's premise when working in an electrical environment including switching, grounding, work on energized equipment, or within the minimum approach distance (MAD).
- Social distancing cannot be maintained or entering an occupied customer's premise in a gaseous environment.

These FR cloth masks provide category 2 FR protection and are NOT a replacement for an arc rated face shield or balaclava. The FR cloth masks are a single layer woven construction, made from FRMC fabric; the same fabrics used in category 2 FR shirts.

How to wash your FR cloth mask:

The new FR cloth mask is reusable; and should be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. At the end of the day, the FR cloth mask is to be cleaned and disinfected. The methods for cleaning and disinfecting the FR cloth mask in a standard home laundry process with detergent and water, or hand wash with dish soap or detergent and water, and then dry thoroughly. The straps on the FR cloth mask may be delicate and extra care should be taken if they are machine-washed. Use of chemical sanitizers such as bleach or alcohol is not necessary and could reduce the effectiveness of the FR cloth mask. For additional information including how to properly don and doff the FR cloth mask, please review the linked Tyndale video. <https://vimeo.com/403698863>

Bottom line:

Properly worn FR cloth masks provide flame resistance while reducing the spread of COVID-19. To ensure you are properly handling and wearing your FR cloth mask, always:

- Wash your hands before touching the FR cloth mask
- Don and Doff the FR cloth mask according to the guideline above
- Always wash the FR cloth mask with detergent between each use.