

SAFETY REMINDER



DISPOSABLE MASK REUSE

There is a shortage of masks across the country due to the COVID 19 threat. That's why we need to conserve what we have. Here is some guidance to help stretch our mask supply, keep yourself healthy, and avoid cross-contamination.

Tips for increasing the life of disposable masks:

- Wash hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the mask (if required for comfort or to maintain fit).
- Take special care when putting on and removing the mask not to stretch the straps.
- Face shields can be worn with any masks to protect and extend its life.
- When not in use while taking short breaks (i.e. taking a drink or similar short duration) keep mask in your personal possession and ensure no contact with mask internal surfaces.
- When not in use between job assignments or during extended breaks and lunch period, keep the mask in a clean, container or bag; breathable if possible. If the mask is damp, either place in a paper bag or leave the ziplock bag open.
- Avoid touching the inside of the mask with dirty hands.

Tips for safe use of disposable masks:

- Maintain social distancing when putting on or removing the mask.
- Discard any mask contaminated with bodily fluids from co-workers.
- Discard any mask following close contact with anyone with a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Consistent with the manufacturer's instructions, discard any mask that is damaged or becomes hard to breathe through.

Also remember the following:

- Masks are not FR and should not be worn when performing energized work or switching.
- Masks should not be used in a gaseous or oxygen deficient atmosphere.
- Do not share masks.
- For the mask to be efficient you must be clean shaven to wear the mask.
- If you have a company assigned half-facepiece or full-facepiece respirator, you can wear it.