

RESPIRATORS: A QUICK GUIDE



SURGICAL MASK

Is it a respirator?

No. It does not seal around the mouth/nose

What is it good for?

Prevents hand to mouth contact, protects the sick from you

Can I wear it without fit testing?

Yes



DUST MASK

Is it a respirator?

No. It hasn't been certified by NIOSH as a respirator

What is it good for?

Prevents you from inhaling large particles, like sawdust

Can I wear it without fit testing?

Yes



N95 or FILTERING FACEPIECE

Is it a respirator?

Yes! It has the NIOSH seal of approval as a respirator

What is it good for?

Prevents you from low amounts of particulates, but not appropriate for asbestos, lead or silica dust

Can I wear it without fit testing?

Yes, but only if using one is not required as part of your job



HALF and FULL FACE AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATOR Is it a respirator?

Yes! It's in the name.

What is it good for?

Depending on the cartridges used: particles (asbestos, lead silica), organic solvents, acid gases, formaldehyde, etc.

Can I wear it without fit testing?

No. You must be enrolled in the UW program



POWERED AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATOR

Is it a respirator?

Yes! It's in the name.

What is it good for?

The same contaminants as the APRs above

Can I wear it without fit testing?

Sort of. You must be enrolled in the UW program, but we require a hands-on demonstration, not fit test.