



### Respirators Rule, Table 2, WAC 296-842-11005

Respirators protect against airborne hazards when the right one is chosen and used. Respirator use required by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) or your employer is not voluntary. With required use, your employer needs to provide further training and meet additional requirements in WAC 296-842 Respirators. DOSH recommends voluntary use of respirators when exposure to substances is below DOSH permissible exposure limits (PELs) because they may provide an additional level of protection.

Voluntary use of respirators can create hazards for the wearer. If you choose to voluntarily use a respirator (provided by you or your employer), you can avoid these hazards by knowing how to use and clean your respirator.

### Take these steps:

- Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer about use, maintenance (cleaning and care), and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- Choose respirators certified by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that will protect you against the hazard of concern. If a respirator isn't certified by NIOSH, it may not meet minimum design and performance standards for workplace use.
  - A NIOSH approval label will appear on or in the respirator packaging. It will tell you what protection the respirator provides.
  - Keep track of your respirator so you don't mistakenly use someone else's.
  - **Do not** wear your voluntary respirator into areas or situations that require a respirators like:
    - Atmospheres that contain hazards that your respirator isn't designed to protect against. For example: a respirator designed to filter dust particles won't protect you against solvent vapor, smoke, or oxygen deficiency.
    - Areas or processes that have required respirator use, when you are only allowed voluntary use.

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Employers may give this information to employees using respirators voluntarily to satisfy the requirement for providing Table 2 in WAC 296-842-11005 Respirators.

To learn more about respirators see WAC 296-842 Respirators.,  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=296-842>