

Personal Protective Equipment - What To Wear And When



BREATHING MASKS: General purpose disposable masks protect against low risk dust and water-based airborne sprays. These should be worn in any non-toxic dusty environment, not just where the job itself actually generates dust. These should also be used when spraying emulsion and similar liquids. Remember, breathing in dust or water based spray, can seriously damage your health.

A respiratory disposable mask with charcoal filter for welding fumes, ozone and most nuisance level odours is also available.



POWERED RESPIRATOR (for hire): Available for (non-isocyanates) spraying or welding complete with new filters. The spray version comes with a hard hat. The welding version with electronic (light reactive) welding shield.



EAR DEFENDERS/EAR PLUGS: Should be worn while running noisy machinery, as well as when tackling some jobs which produce occasional, loud noises. Exposure to high levels of noise can permanently damage your hearing.



OVERALLS: Offer all-round protection against dirt, dust and splashes. They are also sufficiently snug fitting not to catch in machinery.



SAFETY GOGGLES/SAFETY SPECTACLES: are a must for any job where your eyes are even remotely at risk from flying debris or chemical splashes – hammering, breaking, drilling, cutting, spraying and so on. They also provide dust protection. Note that ordinary spectacles are no substitute – that's why HSS goggles are designed to fit over their frames.



SAFETY BOOTS: Should be worn at all times when using heavy equipment or where there is any risk of foot injury.



WELDING MASKS/GOGGLES: are supplied with all arc welding equipment, as part of the hire package. Designed to protect the users skin from harmful UV rays, and to protect the users eyes.



GLOVES: Work gloves should be worn for handling rough and/or sharp materials such as masonry, sheet metal and sawn timber, as well as for dealing with materials that are moderately harmful to the skin, such as cement-based products. They also help prevent blisters. Heavy-duty rubber gloves offer essential protection when handling toxic, corrosive and other dangerous chemicals. Welding gauntlets for protection against burns and UV rays.



HARD HATS: Should always be worn anywhere there is a risk of head injury – whether from falling objects, or from simply bumping into scaffolding or other obstructions.

The Law and You: The use of Personal Protective Equipment for any application is governed by Health & Safety at Work regulations. Failure to observe these regulations not only puts your health at risk, but may make you liable to prosecution.

EQUIPMENT CARE

Never push the equipment beyond its design limits. If it will not do what you want with reasonable ease, assume you have the wrong tool for the job. Contact your local HSS Hire for advice.

Keep the equipment clean. You will find this less of a chore if you clean it regularly, rather than wait until the end of the hire period. Remember, a cleaning charge may be imposed if equipment is returned dirty.

Handle all equipment with reasonable care and make sure you don't lose any nuts, bolts, small removable parts, special accessories and so on.

When not in use, store the equipment somewhere clean, dry and safe from thieves.



... have you been trained

The law requires that personnel using this type of equipment in the workplace must be competent and qualified to do so. Training is available at HSS Training Solutions 0845 766 7799

...any comments?

If you have any suggestions to enable us to improve the information within this guide please e-mail your comments or write to the Safety Guide Manager at the address below e-mail: safety@hss.com

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Group Office: 25 Willow Lane, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TS

Web Site: <http://www.hss.com>

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Operating & Safety Guide 838

HSS Hire



Manual Equipment

A wide selection of manual equipment, allowing you to tackle a variety of jobs, both indoors and out. HSS Hire can also provide a range of essential, specialist safety equipment, including safety goggles, hard hats, face masks, protective gloves and boots.

GENERAL SAFETY

For advice on the safety and suitability of HSS equipment contact your local HSS Hire.

HSS equipment has been designed to be used by an able bodied adult. If you suffer from either a temporary or permanent disability, you must seek expert advice before using this equipment.

Keep children, animals and bystanders away from the work area.

  Never use manual equipment if you are ill, feeling tired, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Manual equipment should only be used by a competent person who has read and understood these instructions.

     Wear practical protective clothing and footwear together with any appropriate safety gear such as work gloves, safety goggles, hard hats and dust-masks. Avoid loose garments and jewellery that could catch in moving parts.

 Note that some equipment generates potentially harmful noise levels. In such cases, to comply with Health & Safety at Work regulations, ear-defenders must be worn by both the operator and anyone else in the vicinity.

If you have any doubts about how to correctly operate or care for the equipment you have hired, don't experiment and hope for the best. Always ask at your local HSS Hire for advice.

Sticker Sense

Many pieces of HSS equipment carry stickers with specific instructions on operating them safely. Make sure you follow these instructions carefully. If in doubt, contact your local HSS Hire for advice.

Ensure the work area is well lit, well ventilated and tidy. In particular, make sure there is nothing on the floor that could trip you.

If working above ground-level, work from a stable, purpose-made platform. Steps and ladders are fine for gaining access and as work platforms for small, light jobs, but for prolonged, heavy work an access tower or something similar is a must.

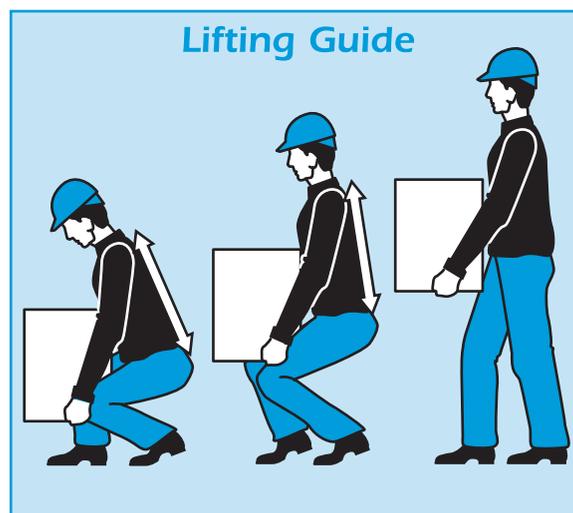
Never cut or drill into walls and floors containing electrical cables, water pipes or gas pipes. If in doubt, locate such potential hazards with a metal locator and/or Cable Avoiding Tool.

Where possible, always work within earshot of someone who can summon help in the event of an accident.

Check the condition of the equipment before use. If it shows signs of damage or excessive wear, do not use it. Return it to your local HSS Hire.

LIFTING

 Note that some equipment is very heavy. Unless you are absolutely sure you can safely lift and/or carry it unaided, get help.



Standing with your feet apart, bend your knees, keep your back straight, your head up and lift by straightening your legs, keeping your arms straight and as close to your body as possible.

Make sure you have a good grip on the object and that you can see where you are going while carrying it.

GETTING STARTED

Where appropriate, ensure the work is adequately supported and/or secured in a vice or clamp.

Ensure the equipment is correctly set up and fitted with the correct accessories where applicable. If in doubt, contact your local HSS Hire for advice.

Be sure to stand bench and floor-mounted equipment on a firm and level surface.

BASIC TECHNIQUES

Most tools should be gripped firmly with both hands. This gives better control and reduces the risk of hand injuries.

Adopt a comfortable, stable stance when working - one that allows you to see what you are doing. You get better results and it's a lot safer.

Keep the whole of your body clear of any cutting edges at all times. This is doubly important when using sharp tools which, by their very nature, offer little 'fine control' - axes and scythes, for example.

Blunt instruments such as sledgehammers and picks should also be treated with respect. They can injure as easily as any blade.

Take special care not to slip if working anywhere other than on a firm, level surface at ground level.

Bear the safety of others in mind at all times. Keep them clear of the equipment itself, and safe from falling or flying debris.

Take your time - you are more likely to make mistakes and have accidents if you rush.

Take it easy - particularly if you are unused to manual work. You are more likely to have an accident if you are suffering from fatigue.

Let the equipment do the work. If you need to apply excessive force, you probably have the wrong tool.

Practice! Always take time to get the feel of an unfamiliar tool before using it in earnest.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

No matter how careful you are, in some situations, general safety precautions alone are simply not enough. You may also need specialist safety equipment and protective clothing.

This guide gives a general overview to what you need and when. You can refer to your latest HSS Hire catalogue for details relating to specific pieces of equipment. If in doubt, contact your local HSS Hire for advice.

Whatever safety equipment you use, you must be sure to use it properly, following any specific instructions given on its packaging. In general, though...

Hard hats, goggles and dust masks in particular should be neither too tight nor too loose, so adjust the straps before starting work.

Keep it clean. For safety and comfort, regularly clean goggles and change dust mask filters. Gloves used with dangerous chemicals should also be washed thoroughly before being removed.

Keep it checked. Always check the equipment's general condition before use. If it shows signs of damage or excessive wear, replace it.