

Respiratory Protection Plan: Form 4 – Respirator Cleaning & Storage

1. Cleaning a Respirator (Remove, Wash, Rinse, Dry, Reassemble, and Test)

- A. **Remove** filter, cartridge, or canister. Disassemble facepiece by removing speaking diaphragm, demand and pressure-demand valve assembly, hose(s), or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.
- B. **Wash** components in warm (43 degrees C. [110 degrees F.] maximum) water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.

When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:

- Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm of chlorine) made by adding approximately one milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 43 degrees C. (110 degrees F.); or
 - Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45 percent alcohol) to one liter of water at 43 degrees C. (110 degrees F.); or
 - Other commercially available cleanser of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if the use is recommended or approved by the respirator manufacturer.
- C. **Rinse** components thoroughly in clean, warm (43 degrees C. [110 degrees F.] maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on a facepiece may result in detritus. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.
- D. **Dry** all components by hand-drying with a clean lint-free cloth process, or air-dry.
- E. **Reassemble** facepiece replacing the filters, cartridges, and canisters where necessary.
- F. **Test** the respirator to ensure that all components now work properly.

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- 2. Respirator Storage:** The respirator shall be stored in an appropriate plastic bag, or closed container, provided by the College, after the respirator cleaning procedures have been followed and the unit is dry. All respiratory users shall label their respirators with their name.

By signing his or her name in the space below, the employee acknowledges receipt from EH&S, or their department manager, of these instructions regarding respirator cleaning and storage:

Employee Name (*print*)

Signature

Date

EH&S Representative

Signature

Date

Department Manager

Signature

Date