

## PSEP Fact Sheet:

# Protective Eyewear

**EMERGENCY  
Eye Wash**

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When the label requires protective eyewear, wear goggles, a face shield, or shielded safety glasses. Consider wearing protective eyewear in any situation where pesticides may get into the eyes, even if the pesticide label does not require eye protection. Eyes are very sensitive to the chemicals in pesticide formulations and readily absorb some pesticides.

## Shielded safety glasses

Shielded safety glasses are often a good choice because they are comfortable, do not cause fogging or sweating, and give good eye protection in many situations. Safety glasses must have brow and side shields.

## Face shields

Face shields have many of the advantages of shielded safety glasses and provide additional protection to the entire face. Face shields that are cupped inward toward the throat give better protection from splashes than straight face shields.

## Goggles

When riding in an open cab during an air blast application, flagging under an aerial application, applying mists, fogs, or aerosols indoors, or working in similar situations, consider choosing goggles that fit tightly against the face. These provide more protection in such situations than shielded safety glasses or face shields. A full-face respirator also would protect the eyes in these conditions.

## Protective eyewear with respirators

Either goggles or shielded safety glasses can be worn with a half-face respirator. Choose styles that fit comfortably with the respirator. Full-face respirators cover the eyes; no additional eye protection is required.

## Face shields over goggles

In high exposure situations when both face protection and eye protection are needed, a face shield can be worn over goggles.

## Eyeflush Dispensers

Whenever the pesticide label requires protective eyewear, also have an eyeflush dispenser handy. It is important to act quickly if a pesticide gets into the eyes because they can be severely damaged in just a few minutes.



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## Styles

Eyeflush equipment may be either portable eyeflush dispensers or permanently installed eyeflush stations. Portable eyeflush dispensers should contain at least one pint of water—either potable water or a special fluid made for eyeflush dispensers. Permanently mounted eyeflush stations should be connected to a supply of potable running water or contain a reservoir of at least one pint of potable water or eyeflush fluid.

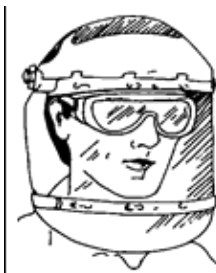
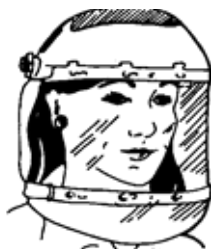
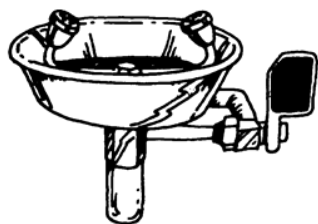
## Using an eyeflush dispenser

Both styles of dispensers allow a gentle trickle of water to flow across the open eye. Wash the eye for about 15 minutes to be sure that all the pesticide is removed.

This bulletin was adapted from a publication produced by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Personal Protective Equipment Guide, Protective Eyewear.*

## Interpreting PPE Statements on Pesticide Labels

Label Statement	Acceptable PPE
Protective eyewear	Shielded safety glasses, face shield, goggles, or full-face respirator
Goggles	Goggles or full-face respirator



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