

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (1) – eye protection and goggles

Why use PPE?

Personal protection equipment (PPE) is used to prevent or minimise exposure to hazards. PPE can reduce the risk of injury but it does not replace safe practices whilst in the laboratory. It is important that PPE is worn when there is a recognised risk of harm and the PPE is worn correctly.

Eye protection

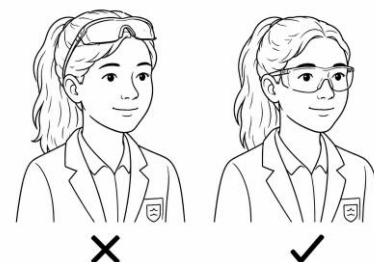
One of the most used items of PPE is eye protection. There are a couple types of eye protection which you may be familiar with.

- **Eye protection** or **safety spectacles** are required to reduce risk due to impact (e.g., when using projectiles) or a chemical splash causing eye irritation.
- Eye protection should fit securely over the eyes and not be worn on the top of the head.
- The eye protection should also be worn by students who wear normal reading glasses.
- The eye protection should remain on until instructed to remove them by the teacher.



Goggles

- **(Splash-proof) goggles** are required if eye damage may occur due to chemical splash. The teacher will tell you when goggles need to be worn instead of eye protection.
- Goggles should fit securely around the head, covering the eyes and the top of the nose.
- The goggles should remain on until instructed to remove them, or if it's safe to do so.



It is important to:

- Put eye protection/goggles on before starting any practical work and remove them once the practical work has finished.
- Look after the eye protection/goggles. Do not scratch the surface or damage the eye protection by putting them lens down on surfaces. Put the eye protection/goggles back gently into their storage.
- Let the teacher know if the eye protection/goggles have become damaged.