What Type of Respirator Should I Use?

Choosing the right respirator that fits you snugly is important for protecting your health. Your employer will help you choose the type of respirator you need. ALWAYS USE NIOSH-APPROVED RESPIRATORS. The type of respirator you need depends on:

- The amount of silica dust to which you are exposed, and
- The kind of work you need to do.
- If you must do abrasive blasting, use only a type CE pressure demand abrasive blasting respirator (see photo 7 on next page).

Respirators used for protection from crystalline silica should not cause undue discomfort. If you have problems with your respirators, report immediately to your supervisor.

**Photo 1**
Covering your face with a cloth such as a bandana or T-shirt WILL NOT protect you.

**Photo 2**
These are filtering facepiece respirators.
- Disposable
- N-95 Type or higher
- Provide minimal protection

**Photo 3**
Half-face mask air-purifying respirator with replaceable N-95 (or higher) filters.

**Photo 4**
Full-face mask air-purifying respirator with replaceable N-95 (or higher) filters.

No Protection........................Least Protection..............................
Model MM2K
Photo courtesy of MSA.

Powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) equipped with:

- Full facepiece
- High efficiency particulate filters

NOTE: Uses battery-powered motor to filter the air.

Supplied-air respirator (SAR) equipped with:

- Full facepiece
- Pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode.

Type CE abrasive-blasting respirator (SAR), operated in a pressure demand or other positive pressure mode.

NOTE: A tight-fitting mask is worn under the blasting hood.

This is the only respirator that can be used for abrasive blasting!