

# 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**



*Model Advantage 200  
Photo courtesy of MSA.*

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

**Photo 4**



*Model Advantage 1000  
Photo courtesy of MSA.*

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

**No Protection.....Least Protection.....**



Photo 7



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!**

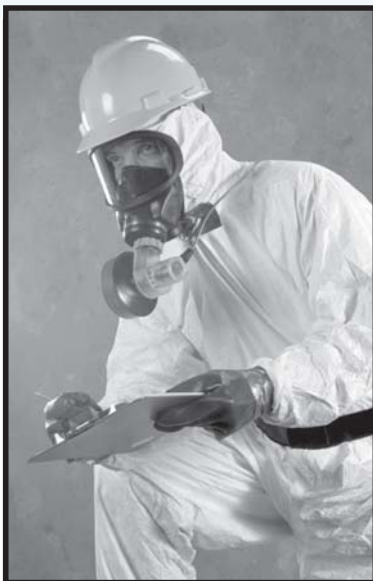
Photo 6



Supplied-air respirator (SAR) equipped with:

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

Photo 5



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.