

Personal Protective Equipment

## Engineered for Safety, Designed for Style - Protective Eyewear

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### Protection all the way

3M believes that health and safety are the priorities in any working environment, and that greater comfort and modern styles improve worker compliance with regulatory requirements for protective eyewear. Therefore, 3M has added comfort features where they are needed most, such as heavy contact areas like nose bridges and temple tips. The materials 3M chooses to provide better comfort are designed to be durable to last and soft to the touch. 3M is also continually working on new coatings, new materials and new designs to bring the latest technology, innovation and fashion into their protective eyewear line.

### What contributes to eye injuries at work?

- **Not wearing eye protection.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly three out of every five workers injured are not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident.
- **Wearing the wrong kind of eye protection for the job.** The Bureau of Labor Statistics also reported that about 40% of the injured workers were wearing some form of eye protection when the accident occurred. However, these workers were most likely to be wearing protective eyeglasses with no side shields.

### What causes eye injuries?

- **Flying particles.** Per the Department of Labor Statistics, almost 70% of accidents resulted from flying or falling objects or sparks striking the eye. Injured workers estimated that nearly three-fifths of the objects were smaller than a pinhead. Contact with chemicals caused one-fifth of the injuries.

### Where do accidents occur most often?

- **Craftwork.** Potential eye hazards can be found in nearly every industry, but according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 40% of injuries occurred among craft workers, like mechanics, repairers, carpenters and plumbers.
- **Industrial equipment operation.** The Bureau reported that over a third of the injured workers were operators, such as assemblers, sanders, and grinding machine operators. Almost half of these injured workers were employed in manufacturing.

## How can eye injuries be prevented?

- **Always wear effective eye protection.** OSHA standards require that employers provide workers with suitable eye protection. To be effective, the eyewear must be of the appropriate type for the hazard encountered and properly fitted.
- **Better training and education.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, most workers were hurt while doing their regular jobs. Workers injured while not wearing protective eyewear most often said they believed it was not required by the situation. Even though the vast majority of employers furnished eye protection at no cost to employees, about 40% of the workers received no information on where and what kind of eyewear should be used.
- **Maintenance.** Eye protection devices must be properly maintained. Scratched and dirty devices reduce vision, cause glare and may contribute to accidents. Scratched or damaged eyewear should be replaced immediately.

Source for All Statistical Claims: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Previously featured on 3M's website.*

*For more information regarding 3M eye protection, please visit [MSCDirect.com](https://www.mscdirect.com).*

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