

OSHA requires workers to wear safety glasses whenever there is a risk of flying particles, dust, impact hazards, or light radiation.

Not all glasses are designed for the same hazards. Workers should know which type is going to provide the best protection for the task.

- Safety glasses must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards. Look for the Z87 marking on the frame or lens before using them on the job.

**Safety Glasses** impact-resistant ANSI Z87.1 lenses for workplace safety use

**Prescription Safety Glasses** custom corrective lenses with ANSI Z87.1 standards

**Safety Glasses with Side Shields** come with detachable or permanent shields

**Over-the-Glasses (OTG) Safety Glasses** fit comfortably over prescription glasses

**Infrared (IR) Glasses** limited protection from infrared light

**Welding Safety Glasses** have shaded lenses used for limited welding tasks or as secondary protection

Safety glasses only provide adequate protection if they are worn correctly. Poor fit is a common reason workers avoid wearing their safety glasses.

- Safety glasses that are too tight cause discomfort, while loose glasses may not stay in place. Make sure your safety glasses fit snugly without slipping.
- Always report fit issues so adjustments or replacements can be made.
- Do not modify safety glasses by removing side shields, bending frames, or altering lenses, since this reduces their protective rating.
- Always wear glasses in designated areas, not just during certain tasks. Keep your safety glasses on until you are no longer in a hazardous area.
- When wearing safety glasses with other required PPE (like hard hats, face shields, or respirators), they should fit together comfortably without gaps.

Safety glasses that are scratched, cracked, or dirty not only make it harder to see clearly, they also weaken the lenses and reduce their ability to stop flying debris or an impact.

- Inspect the lenses of your safety glasses every day for scratches, cracks, or cloudiness. Replace damaged or heavily scratched safety glasses immediately. Do not continue to use them.

- Choose the right type of safety glasses for the task.
- Do not wear your regular prescription eyeglasses in place of safety glasses. Glasses that do not meet ANSI Z87.1 standards do not provide enough protection.
- Wear your safety glasses in all required areas and during any job where your eyes are at risk.
- Never assume a task is safe without eye protection.
- Treat your safety glasses as essential equipment, not disposable gear.



Safety glasses provide impact protection for the eye area, but they are not enough for every task.

- When work involves liquid chemicals, corrosive materials, or the possibility of splashes, properly fitted goggles are required.
- For grinding, cutting, or welding work where large debris, sparks, or high heat are produced, a face shield must be worn in addition to safety glasses.

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