

Storage and Use of 3M™ N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators

Storage

N95 respirators are carefully designed to both filter particles and seal to the face. To help protect their condition so they can function correctly, it's important to store them according to the specified requirements.

Until they are needed for use, respirators must be stored:

- In their original packaging
- In a hazard-free environment (clean air)
- Away from direct sunlight
- In a climate-controlled area, with humidity and temperature within the acceptable range specified on the packaging

This means that they should be stored indoors, in their original packaging, in a structured storage space where they can't become crushed or distorted.

Use

Here are a few tips for using N95 disposable respirators:

- Before each use, the respirator should be inspected according to the inspection procedures outlined in the *User Instructions*
- If they will be reused, the respirator must be stored properly between uses
- If the respirator becomes damaged, dirty, or difficult to breathe through, it should be discarded immediately and not reused
- These respirators may NOT be washed between uses—that could destroy the filter media
- They are meant to seal tightly to the face, so they must be worn correctly each time, and no facial hair, jewelry, or clothing may disrupt that seal
- No more than 24 hours of facial hair growth is acceptable under the sealing surface of the respirator per the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- N95 respirators cannot filter gases and vapors and do not supply oxygen
- Wearers should be fit tested on their exact respirator model prior to the first use

For more information, visit [3M's wildfire resource page](#) or call Technical Service at 1 (800) 243-4630

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3M respirators are part of a system that helps reduce exposures to certain airborne contaminants. Before use, the wearer must read and understand applicable User Instructions. Follow all local regulations. In the U.S., a written respiratory protection program must be implemented meeting all the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.134, including training, fit testing and medical evaluation. In Canada, CSA standard Z94.4 requirements must be met and/or requirements of the applicable jurisdiction, as appropriate. Misuse may result in injury, sickness or death. For correct use, consult supervisor and User Instructions, or call 3M Technical Service in USA at 1-800-243-4630 and in Canada at 1-800-267-4414.