

What is an N95 respirator?

Respirators vs. Masks



N95 Respirators

In the US, the word NIOSH and N95 are printed on the front



Masks

Do not have NIOSH printed on the front

Yes	Helps protect from airborne particulates	No
Yes	When properly selected and used, provides secure face seal	No
Yes	Can filter many types of invisible particles	No
Yes	Government-certified respiratory protection	No

N95 filtering facepiece respirators are tested and approved by the United States government as “respirators,” meaning they can reduce the amount of airborne contaminants that a wearer inhales when correctly selected and used. The filtration efficiency of N95 respirators is tested and confirmed to be at least 95%, when correctly selected and used, and they are designed to seal against the face directing inhaled air through the filter material.

Non-approved masks, scarves, and bandanas are **not** equipped to provide respiratory protection.

Wildfire Air

Wildfire-impacted air often contains many small particles, many of which are not visible to the human eye. Proper respiratory protection can help protect you from these particles if you have the proper fit and seal. Respirators with a N95 filter have the ability to filter particulates, while masks do not.

Stay safe during wildfire season by:

- For wildfires, use respirators for smoke particles and ash only, and at a safe distance from active fire
- Visit [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov) to be aware of how wildfires are affecting air quality in your area
- 3M™ N95 respirators are not for firefighting and do not provide oxygen

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.