

Respirators vs surgical masks

What is the difference between a respirator and a surgical mask?



Respirators





- ▶ Designed to reduce the wearer's exposure to airborne particles.
- ▶ Different classes offer different levels of protection.
- ▶ FFP3 disposable respirators offer the highest level of protection available from this type of device.
- ▶ Some respirators may also be tested to comply with surgical mask standards (dual approved).
- ▶ Respirators are Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ▶ Require Face Fit Testing and wearer to be clean shaven.



Surgical masks

- ▶ Primary purpose to prevent particles being expelled by the wearer into the environment.
- ▶ Not Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ▶ Certified under Medical Devices Directive.
- ▶ Not necessarily designed to seal tightly to the face.
- ▶ Air leakage around the edges is likely.
- ▶ Some are also fluid resistant to splash and splatter of blood and other infectious materials.

3M™ Disposable Respirators

	Respirators: PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)		Dual approved respirators: PPE and medical device	
Product	 3M™ Aura™ 1873V+ Respirator	 3M™ Disposable Particulate Respirator 1895V+	 3M™ Aura™ 1863+ Respirator	 3M™ Aura™ 1883+ Respirator
Exhalation value	Valved	Valved	Unvalved	Shrouded valve
EN: 149:2001+A1:2009 classification	FFP3 NR D	FFP3 R D	FFP3 NR D	FFP3 NR D
Assigned Protection Factor (APF)	20	20	20	20
EN 14683:2005 Classification	N/A	N/A	Type IIR	Type IIR
NPC code	BTP133	BTP133	BTP121	BTP152

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