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Change it? —  
Use it!

# How well are you looking after your respirator?

To maintain protection levels, optimise the effective lifetime of the equipment and avoid the additional cost of replacement, it is extremely important to carry out regular checks and maintenance on your Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE).

Unsure where to start? These top tips from 3M will help you to ensure that your team's RPE stays in tip top condition.



## Top tips on care & maintenance from 3M



### Understand your responsibilities

Many countries place a legal requirement on companies to maintain their reusable RPE and keep maintenance records. Make sure you understand what is required by law, so you can design your company's care and maintenance policy to be fully compliant.



### Get advice from your manufacturer or distributor

Care and maintenance instructions are included in the product user instructions. Some manufacturers may also publish additional resources to help you manage care and maintenance and provide training to your team. Care and maintenance support for 3M products can be found by visiting [go.3m.com/RPECare](https://go.3m.com/RPECare).



### Consider maintenance when selecting new RPE

There are many factors to consider when selecting new RPE for your team, and budget is normally an important consideration. Remember to consider the durability of the product construction, availability of spare parts and the ease of maintenance before reaching a final decision – these factors can outweigh differences in the initial purchase price of the product.



### Don't forget about filters

Respirator filters do not last forever. Once a gas & vapour filter has been used to its full capacity, it will no longer offer any protection. An overused particulate filter will still protect you, but it will be hard to breathe through, leading to fatigue & reduced productivity.

The service life of a filter can be affected by a number of factors, including the type of filter, the concentration of contaminants in the air, breathing rates, humidity and temperature. Best practice is to establish a filter change schedule - a specified time period after which filters will be replaced.

If you are unsure about whether you are changing your filters often enough, 3M offers a reference guide which is available to download from [3M.co.uk](https://www.3m.co.uk). For more information, contact your 3M Channel Partner.

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