

Cleaning and Sanitizing Your Respirator

If you are responsible for cleaning your own respirator, remove filters, cartridges, valve assemblies and any other detachable parts. As you clean and dry each part of the respirator, inspect it carefully to be sure it is in good condition.

Check for:

- Cracks in the face shield
- Worn straps, hoses, buckles or clips
- Wear or damage to the face piece seal
- Condition of filters, cartridges or canisters
- Worn or damaged screw threads or seating gaskets
- Bent, torn or misshapen exhalation and inhalation valve disks
- Damage to speaking diaphragm, if there is one
- Make sure flexible parts are still flexible, and check the stretch of elastic bands

Clean the respirator:

- Clean the respirator with a mild detergent and water, or follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the respirator
- Rinse the respirator thoroughly in clean, warm water. Rinsing is extremely important because a residue of the cleaning agent can damage the respirator and irritate skin.
- Use a soft, lint-free cloth to absorb most of the water then let the respirator air dry.
- Be sure all parts are thoroughly dry before putting the respirator back together again.
- Store your respirator in a clean closeable plastic bag, in its proper location.

Contact your supervisor if you have any questions about taking care of your respirator