



Safety Share

Respirator Filters and Cartridges

Air-purifying respirators (APRs) remove contaminants from the air by passing it through a filtering medium, such as a filtering cartridge.

Filters

Filters remove particulates like dust, fibers, fumes and mist by passing air through a woven material with an electrostatic charge.

Filter	Magenta
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Cartridges

Cartridges remove certain types of gases and vapours by passing air through adsorbent materials like activated charcoal.

Cartridge	Color
Acid gas	White
Acid gas and organic vapour	Yellow
Ammonia/methylamine	Green
Organic vapour	Black
Mercury	Orange
Multi-gas	Olive Green

Important: Never rely on odor, taste or irritation to determine when it is time to change your filter and cartridges.

Change-out Schedules

Filters and cartridges do not last forever. Employers are responsible for developing change-out schedules where filters and cartridges are used.

In addition to this change-out schedule, filters and cartridges should be replaced when they:

- Become difficult to breathe through
- Become dirty, wet or damaged
- Are used in an environment where infectious contaminants are present

Cartridges should also be replaced when:

- The end of service life indicator changes colour (if applicable)
- The manufacturers expiry has elapsed
- Six months after the package has been opened, regardless of use

Important: If you detect odor, taste or irritation before reaching your company's change-out deadline, report the issue to your supervisor or the administrator of your company's respiratory protection program.