



## Focus on Eye Safety – Wear Eye Protection

**Good vision is priceless!** Believe or not, the average home is full of dangers that often go unnoticed. In fact, accidents involving common household products cause 125,000 eye injuries each year. Additionally, more than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day and 10-20% of these injuries will cause temporary or permanent vision loss. Luckily, 90% of all eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear.

### What are the common causes of eye injuries?

- Flying objects (bits of metal, glass)
- Tools
- Particles
- Chemicals
- Harmful radiation
- Any combination of these or other hazards

### What is my best defense against an eye injury?

**Always wear effective eye protection.** To be effective, the eyewear must be of the appropriate type for the hazard encountered and properly fitted; a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey showed that 94% of the injuries to workers were due to use of eye protection inappropriate to the hazard.

### When should I protect my eyes?

At work and at home, use eye protection whenever there is a chance of eye injury, such as performing activities could present a hazard from flying objects, chemical splashes, radiation or a combination of these or other dangers. Anyone working in or passing through areas that pose eye hazards should also wear protective eyewear.

### What type of safety eyewear is available?

- Safety eyewear protection includes:
- Non-prescription and prescription safety glasses
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Welding helmets
- Full-face respirators



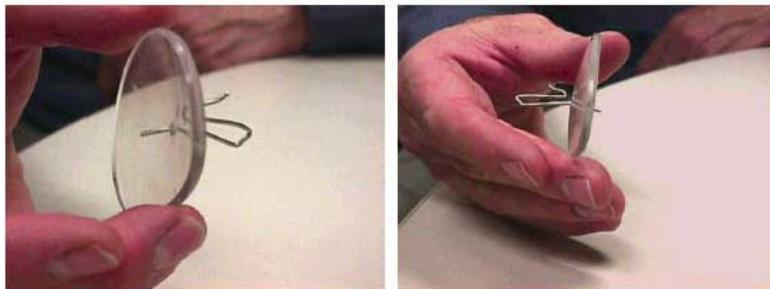
### What type of safety eye protection should I wear?

The type of safety eye protection you should wear depends on the hazards. If you are working in an area that has particles, flying objects, or dust, you must at least wear safety glasses with side protection (side shields). If you are working with chemicals, you should wear goggles. If you are working near hazardous radiation (welding, lasers, or fiber optics) you must use special-purpose safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or helmets designed for that task.

### Does safety eye protection work? Yes, eye safety protection works.

As the result of a workplace safety glasses program, an employee began encouraging his 18-year-old son, who installs siding on houses, to wear safety glasses while working. The son finally relented, when aluminum dust started getting in his eyes. About one week later, he was applying siding with an air powered staple gun. When the son fired a staple, it hit a metal plate behind the siding, ricocheted back towards his face and one leg of the staple penetrated the safety glasses' lens, see the figure below.

**The staple hit with such force that the frames were cracked and the son received bruising on the eyebrow and cheekbone.**



Sources:

[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

[www.eyesafety.4ursafety.com/eye-safety-articles.html](http://www.eyesafety.4ursafety.com/eye-safety-articles.html)