

# FACT SHEET

## RPE AND PPE

### Naturally Occurring Asbestos

*For more information refer to the Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Asbestos Management Plan Guide*

The purpose of wearing RPE and PPE when working with NOA and asbestos materials is to create a barrier between you and asbestos fibres. There should be no tears or breaks in any PPE products. Remember, if products (such as coveralls) are damaged or torn, fibres can get in so any damaged or perished PPE must NOT be used and must be disposed of.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (RPE) & ASBESTOS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) SHOULD BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHEN WORKING WITH ASBESTOS MATERIALS!**



**SUITABLE PPE** is made from materials that protect you and your clothes from fibres including coveralls, gloves, safety footwear, shoe covers, gloves and protective eyewear.

**DISPOSABLE PPE** can be used ONLY ONCE then must be disposed of safely just like any asbestos waste.

**LAND OWNERS AND FARMERS** should always keep RPE and PPE on site should it be required for managing NOA.

**WHEN A NUMBER OF WORKERS** are employed, ensure you stock sufficient RPE and PPE should it be required.

### RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (RPE)

- Your mask should be worn at all times when working with asbestos containing materials.
- Minimum P2 filter, half face disposable particulate respirator.
- Half face non-disposable particulate respirator with cartridge is preferred but it must be decontaminated after each use.
- The wearer must be clean shaven in the area of the seal.
- All respirators are different shapes and sizes so it's important that the size is correct to properly fit to the wearer's face.
- Ensure your mask fits perfectly by conducting a respirator fit check.
  - Close off inlet to filter with hands
  - Inhale gently
  - Hold for 10 seconds
  - Ensure the face piece remains slightly collapsed





## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- **WEAR** all items listed in the RPE and PPE Kit whenever working with NOA and asbestos.
- **ALL** items in a disposable PPE Kit must be disposed of as ASBESTOS WASTE after use.

**Wear the PPE in the following order:**

1. Disposable coveralls
2. Footwear
3. Shoe covers
4. Gloves
5. Mask
6. Protective eyewear

**NOTE: ONLY WEAR old clothes under the coveralls. These should be disposed of with the coveralls after use.**

### DISPOSABLE COVERALLS

- Should be rated Type 5, Category 3.
- Be labelled for asbestos use.
- Be one size too big to prevent breaking or tearing when worn.
- Include a hood and elasticised cuffs.
- Cuffs should be pulled over the edge of gloves.
- If the cuffs of coverall arms are loose, seal them with tape to prevent fibres getting in.
- After the shoe covers are fitted, ensure the coverall legs then go over the top of shoe covers.
- After the mask and eyewear are fitted, ensure the hood goes over the mask straps and arms of eyewear, and covers all hair.

### FOOTWEAR & SHOE COVERS TO BE WORN OVER SHOES

- **GUMBOOTS** are the best option as they are easily wiped clean and have no laces. Once cleaned appropriately they can be re-used for non-asbestos work.
- **DURING** NOA work, it is often not practical to use of protective shoe covers (due to wetting down procedures). If gumboots or boots without laces are used, socks must be disposed of as asbestos waste daily.
- **DISPOSE** of boots that can't be decontaminated as asbestos waste.
- **NEVER** wear boots or shoes with laces as they can't be decontaminated.
- **SHOE COVERS** are worn OVER shoes and should cover all of the boot/shoe and be secured above the ankle.
- **WHEN** shoe covers are secured, pull the cuffs of the coverall legs down to cover the top of shoe covers.

### GLOVES

- Use ONLY disposable Latex, Nitrile or neoprene gloves.
- Tuck under the cuffs of coveralls and tape the cuffs if loose.

### PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

- **ALWAYS** wear protective eyewear when working with materials that might produce dust.
- After fitting your mask, fit your eyewear and place the hood over the top of the mask straps and eyewear arms.

### Notes



PLEASE SEE THE NOA ASBESTOS  
MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.

