



Cleaning Procedures

The following procedures shall be used for cleaning respirators:

1. Remove filters, cartridges or canisters. Disassemble facepieces by removing speaking diaphragms, demand and pressure-demand valve assemblies, hoses or any components recommended by the manufacturer. Discard or repair any defective parts.
2. Wash components in warm (110 degree Fahrenheit maximum) water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.
3. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (110 degree Fahrenheit maximum), preferably running water. Drain.
4. When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components shall be immersed for two minutes in one of the following:
 - Hypochlorite solution (50 ppm chlorine) made by adding approximately one milliliter of laundry bleach to one liter of water at 110 degrees Fahrenheit; or
 - Aqueous solution of iodine (50 ppm iodine) made by adding approximately 0.8 milliliters of tincture of iodine (6-8 grams ammonium and/or potassium iodide/100 cc of 45% alcohol) to one liter of water at 110 degrees Fahrenheit); or
 - Other commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality when used as directed, if their use is recommended or approved by the respirator manufacturer.
5. Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm (110 degrees Fahrenheit maximum), preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on facepieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.