

Your Health – Spraying epoxy resin based coatings

Advice for applicators, filler mixers and all others involved in the application of epoxy based materials

Actions to be taken before and during spraying

Step 1 – What product am I using and what could it possibly do to my health?

- Read the label or the product safety data and check the health and safety information.

Step 2 – How long? How much? And where?

How long is the work going to take?

- The longer the application time, the greater the chances of coming into contact with the paint and solvent vapours.
- Cartridge filters used on respiratory protective equipment, gloves and overalls will eventually allow paint and solvent vapours through them.

How much paint is going to be used?

- The more paint used the greater the chances of coming into contact with the paint and solvent vapours.
- Cartridge filters, gloves and clothing will gradually become less effective as they stop more and more spray particles and vapour.
- Ensure all protective equipment is properly maintained, inspected before use and replaced when worn out.

Where is the paint going to be used?

- Confined or closed spaces can increase the chances of coming into contact with paint and solvent vapours.
- Solvent vapours can force air out of an area lowering the oxygen level, which can cause breathing difficulties or even suffocation.
- Solvent vapours and air can form explosive mixtures.
- Vapours should be removed by ventilation or extraction in these situations.

Step 3 – How do I protect myself?

- Taking into account Steps 1 and 2 use the table below to decide what protective equipment should be worn.
- Approved protective equipment such as face masks, gloves and eye protection should carry the appropriate safety mark(s).
- Remember to change filters and gloves regularly and change clothing if it becomes heavily contaminated.
- If you are in doubt consult a health and safety adviser, manager or representative.

Application	Open Air	Confined Spaces	Spray Cell (Natural Ventilation)	Workshop	Spray Booth	Comments
Full face mask air fed	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of mask that should be worn depends on the hazard of the paint, length of time for the job, amount of paint used and where the job is done. • Use particulate and vapour cartridges. • Inspect the mask for signs of damage. • Check the fit before use; beards and stubble may interfere with the seal around the face. • Assess how long cartridge filters will last during a job and change them well before they become ineffective. • Change the cartridge as soon as there is a smell of solvent.
Full face mask cartridge	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	
Half face mask cartridge	★★	★★	★★	★★	★	
Full face protection	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will depend on the choice of respiratory protection. • Wear either a full face mask, goggles or safety glasses depending on the situation. • Use tear off strips on a full face mask.
Goggles	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	
Safety glasses	★	★	★	★	★★★★	
Barrier cream	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't use instead of or in place of protective equipment. • Use on exposed skin that cannot be covered by protective equipment. • Don't use petroleum jelly based products.
Cotton overall	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a cotton overall with full length sleeves and legs. • Minimum of 60% cotton. • Keep the buttons and zips done up at all times. • Make sure there are no gaps or exposed skin at the wrists and ankles. • Replace any overall (cotton or disposable) immediately if paint gets through them.
Disposable overall	★★	★★★★	★★	★	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use over a cotton overall in situations when exposure to the paint is potentially high. • Throw away disposable overalls every day.
Chemical resistant gloves	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use suitable chemical resistant gloves that are in good condition. • Replace your gloves as soon as the inside looks dirty.
Safety boots	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boots should be steel toecap, anti-static with at least ankle protection.

★★★★ = Highly recommended ★★ = Recommended ★ = Optional – depends on situation – ★★ or ★★★ may take preference

Step 4 – Look after other people's health?

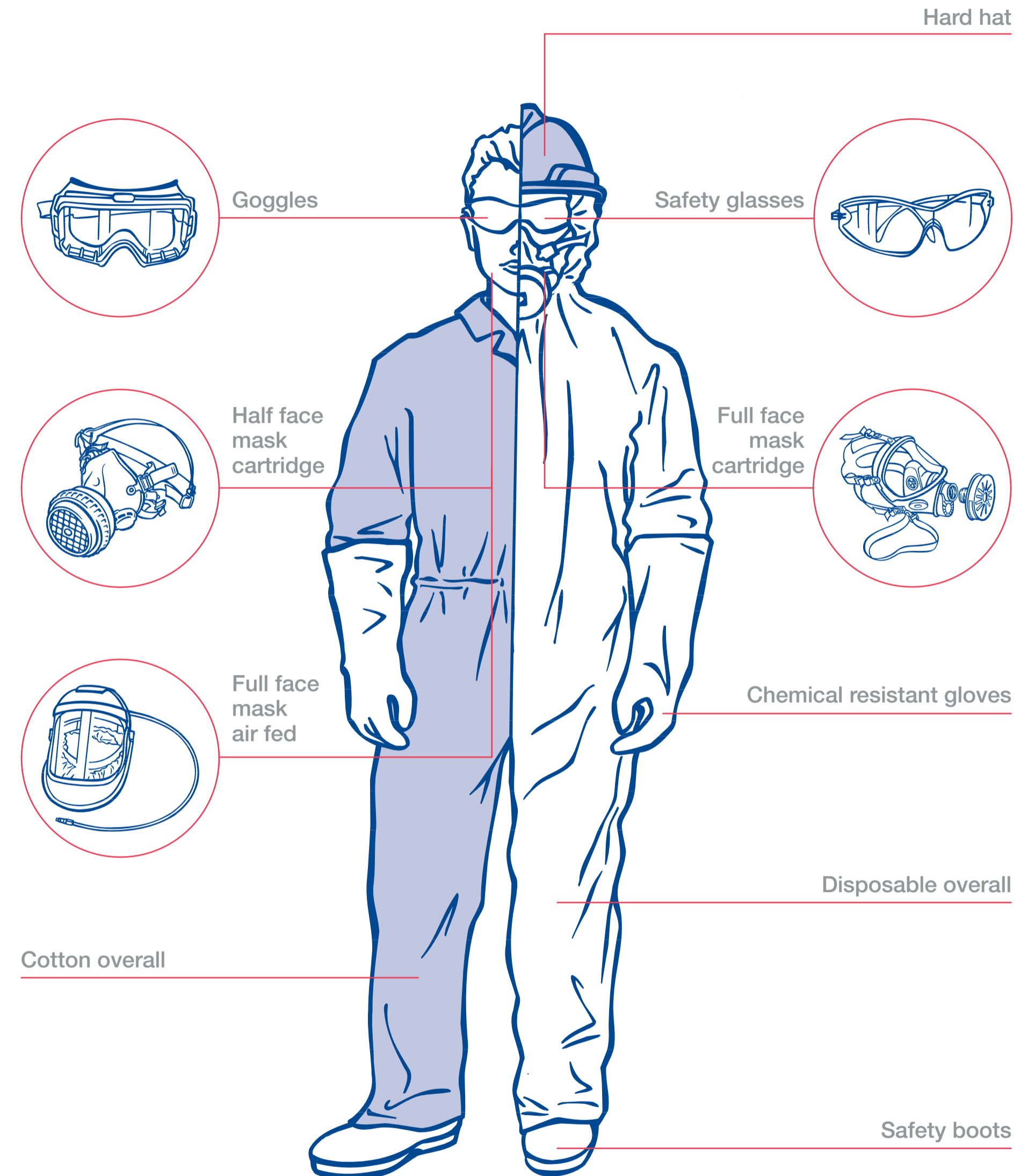
- Before spraying ensure that only essential personnel are in the surrounding area and that they too are wearing the correct personal protection equipment.
- Anyone not essential to the work should be asked to leave the area.

Actions to be taken after spraying

Step 5 – Good hygiene

- ✓ Wash hands well before eating, drinking, smoking and going to the toilet.
- ✓ Remove any paint from the skin with cold water and soap.
- ✓ Remove contaminated clothing and gloves carefully and dispose of them safely if necessary.
- ✓ Shower before going home or as soon as possible following contact with paint or dryspray.
- ✓ Use a general purpose moisturising cream to replace natural skin oils.
- ✓ Wash and dry the inside of your face mask every day after use and store it safely.
- ✓ Launder contaminated cotton overalls, sweat bands and any other clothing before re-using them.

- ✗ Do not use solvent to remove paint from skin.
- ✗ Do not go home or travel in contaminated overalls.
- ✗ Do not eat or drink in the work area.



Guidance provided by:



AkzoNobel

The generic health and safety guidance presented in this poster is not intended to be exhaustive and does not replace or take precedence over health and safety legislation. It is the user's duty to perform a personalised risk assessment prior to carrying out an application and to assess the correct levels of protection required to safe guard human health. For more information on the levels of protection offered by specific items of personal protective equipment consult the manufacturer.