

PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Protecting Your Eyes

Each day, more than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work, according to Prevent Blindness America. If that's the case, why do so many of us appear to be blind to the value of safety glasses? Annual training on the need to wear safety eyewear and monitoring use are key components of a successful eye protection program.

What are the common causes of eye injuries for pest control technicians?

- ❖ Flying objects (bits of metal, glass, wood, concrete)
- ❖ Particles, dust, and debris
- ❖ Chemicals (powders and liquid)
- ❖ Protruding nails, screws or wires in crawl spaces and attics
- ❖ Any combination of these or other hazards

What is my best defense against an eye injury?

- ❖ Know the eye safety dangers at every location you visit
- ❖ Eliminate hazards before starting work by assessing the area
- ❖ Read labels
- ❖ Avoid pouring or mixing in the wind
- ❖ Use proper eye protection

When should I protect my eyes at work?

- ❖ Whenever there is a chance of eye injury from the work you are doing
- ❖ Whenever you are in areas that pose eye hazards from the type of environment or the work being done there



Hazards

Impact

Impact hazards include flying objects such as chips, fragments, particles, sand and dirt. These hazards typically result from tasks like chipping, grinding, machining, masonry work, sawing, drilling, chiseling, riveting and sanding. While you are working in a hazardous area where there is exposure to flying objects, fragments and particles, you should wear side shields or goggles.

Heat

Heat injuries, including burns, can occur to the eye when you are exposed to high temperatures, splashes of molten metal, or hot sparks. Workplace tasks vulnerable to these types of hazards involve pouring, casting, hot dipping, furnace operations and other similar activities. While your work in pest control does not directly expose you to heat injuries, you might be doing service where this type of work is being done.

Chemicals

Direct contact with chemicals is another leading cause of eye injuries. A lot of these injuries, which typically occur in the form of a splash, mists, vapors or fumes, result from an inappropriate choice of PPE. With the wrong type of PPE in place, a chemical substance could enter the eye area from around or under the protective equipment. Damage from chemical substances contacting the eyes can often be extremely serious and even irreversible. When working with or around chemicals such as pesticides, you need to know the location of eyewash stations or wash solution and how to access them with restricted vision.

Dust

Dust is a hazard that can be very hard to avoid. It is most prevalent in such operations as woodworking and buffing. Working in a dusty environment can cause eye injuries and especially presents hazards to contact lens wearers. Safety goggles are the only effective type of eye protection from nuisance dust because they create a protective seal around the eyes.