

**Respirator Fit Testing
Services Offered by
NYCAMH
for Farmers**

For further information and/or to
Order Dust Masks

Call NYCAMH at
(800) 343-7527



NYCAMH

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NYCAMH is a program of Bassett Healthcare
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New York State Department of Health
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

**Disposable
Dust/Mist**



- Purchase
- Use
- Proper Fit
- Storage



Mask Use On The Farm

Disposable dust/mist masks may not provide the best protection for all agricultural situations, but properly used they can be adequate for most agricultural jobs. Not everyone can wear a disposable dust/mist mask. If you currently have respiratory problems, circulatory problems, psychological problems or minor facial abnormalities, you may not be able to wear a disposable dust/mist mask. If you have questions, you should consult a professional before you start to wear respiratory protection.

Follow these four recommendations for the best possible respiratory protection while wearing disposable dust/mist masks

1. Purchase only approved masks

The mask must have a test certified number (TC-000-000) stamped on the mask or on the straps. "The mask must have two straps." **Only a mask with two straps will provide adequate protection.** Look for the (NIOSH) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Seal on the package. ***Remember! Always use a mask with two straps!***



2. Use the right mask for the job

A mask approved for protection against dust/mist must only be used in a job involving dust/mist exposure. Avoid life-threatening situations where there may not be enough oxygen (air). ***A dust/mist mask offers no protection if worn while entering freshly filled silos and manure storage pits or while applying pesticides. Other means to avoid dust include ventilation and applying moisture to dust producing sources.***

Discard and replace mask if breathing becomes difficult and/or if the mask becomes saturated with dust particles or mist droplets. Also, discard and replace the mask if you can taste or smell the contaminant you are working with. ***When in doubt, throw it out.***

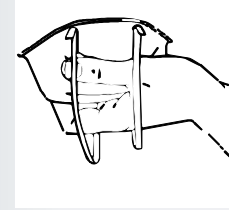
3. Make sure the mask fits your face properly

A tight seal against your skin is necessary to keep dust/mist from being inhaled. Keep in mind that facial hair (beards, long sideburns and moustaches) can interfere with this seal. Some facial features and scars may also prevent an adequate seal.

4. Store the mask in a paper bag

Proper storage prevents contamination and moisture retention of the mask when it is not being worn. A paper lunch bag is adequate for storage. A disposable mask must not be hung on a nail in the barn where it can be contaminated with dust before it is worn.

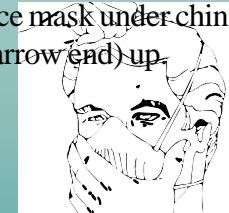
How to fit your dust/mist mask



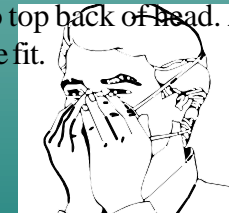
1. Hold mask in hand with molded nose contour (narrow end) at fingertips, allowing head straps to rest on your hand.



2. Place mask under chin with molded nose contour (narrow end) up.



3. Pull shorter bottom strap over head, below ears, to around neck. Raise longer top strap to top back of head. Adjust mask for comfortable fit.



4. To check fit, cup both hands over mask and exhale. If air leaks at mask edges, adjust straps back along the sides of the head. If it still