

Using PPE at home

Objective

Discuss the importance of using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at home.

Background: Most school districts require staff to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when performing specific tasks, such as eye protection when operating a metal shop lathe or hearing protection when operating a grass mower.

However, people often don't wear PPE when doing similar tasks at home.

Ask: What are some tasks people perform at home that would be safer with PPE?

- **Using string trimmers:** Wear safety glasses, a face shield, ear protection (for a gas-powered model), long-sleeve shirt, and pants.
- **Using table saws or chop saws:** Wear safety glasses and hearing protection.
- **Using a chain saw:** Wear chaps, safety glasses, hearing protection, hard hat, and boots.
- **Using chemical cleaners:** Wear protective gloves and safety glasses or goggles (depending on the splash hazard and hazards associated with the chemical).

- **Doing general yard work such as dragging brush:** Wear leather gloves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes.
- **Using herbicides:** Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for the chemical. This often will include long-sleeve shirt and pants, appropriate gloves, and eye protection.
- **Handling wooden crates or materials for wood shop:** Wear leather gloves.
- **Weeding while kneeling on concrete or on hard, rocky packed ground:** Use a foam pad or wear knee pads.
- **Cleaning up blood spills and other body fluids:** Wear nitrile (or similar) exam gloves and, depending on task, eyewear, and an impermeable apron.

Ask: Do you have PPE at home for these tasks? Is it in good repair?

Ask: Any safety concerns or suggestions?

