

Table 2 from the Respiratory Protection Code, WAC 296-842:

WA Labor & Industries requires general awareness training for employees who wear N-95s and are not fit tested.

If a staff member has duties in a high-risk category that requires a respirator such as an N95 mask, the District provides it along with a medical evaluation, fit testing and training.

Staff who voluntarily wear a respirator such as an N95 mask are required to review Table 2 before wearing it.

**Table 2**  
**Advisory Information for Employees**  
**Who Voluntarily Use Respirators**

**[To be given to employees voluntarily wearing respirators including filtering facepieces]**

- Respirators protect against airborne hazards when properly selected and used. Respirator usage that is required by DOSH or your employer is not voluntary use. With required use, your employer will need to provide further training and meet additional requirements in this chapter. DOSH recommends voluntary use of respirators when exposure to substances is below. DOSH permissible exposure limits (PELs) because respirators can provide you an additional level of comfort and protection..
- If you choose to voluntarily use a respirator (whether it's provided by you or your employer) be aware that **respirators can create hazards for you**, the user. You can avoid these hazards if you know how to use your respirator properly **and** how to keep it clean. Take these steps:
  - Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer about use, maintenance (cleaning and care), and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
  - Choose respirators that have been certified for use to protect against the substance of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certifies respirators. If a respirator is not certified by NIOSH, you have no guarantee that it meets minimum design and performance standards for workplace use.
    - A NIOSH approval label will appear on or in the respirator packaging. It will tell you what protection the respirator provides.
  - Keep track of your respirator so you do not mistakenly use someone else's.
  - Do **not** wear your respirator into:
    - Required use situations when you are only allowed voluntary use.
    - Atmospheres containing hazards that your respirator is not designed to protect against.

For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles won't protect you against solvent vapor, smoke, or oxygen deficiency.