

PPE Head Protection Equipment Care and Storage

By Terry Dougherty

Each component of your PPE head protection hard hat/helmet and bump cap requires regular inspection and proper maintenance to ensure your PPE continues to protect you. If your head protection is used on a regular basis, you should expect to replace the equipment roughly every two years. Otherwise, products should generally be replaced five years after the date of manufacture. During those years of use, you should still be implementing ongoing inspection to ensure your headgear provides the protection standards needed.

Follow these tips to get the most out of your PPE headgear:

- Clean the helmet's shell and suspension system with mild soap and rinse with warm water.
- Inspect the shell daily for any sign of damage or excess wear, perforations, cracks, or deformities.
- Inspect suspension straps for cuts, frays, damage from chemicals, or any other sign of wear.
- Never drill holes in the shell unless instructed to do so by the manufacturer. This can decrease the impact resistance and nullify the Class E or G electrical insulation rating.
- Do not use adhesives, paints, or cleaning solvents on your hard hat unless they are approved by the manufacturer.
- Never place anything under the shell or between the suspension and the shell. Never wear unlicensed headwear underneath your helmet.
- Store all industrial PPE headgear according to the manufacturer's instructions in a safe place, eg, you should never store a hard hat in direct sunlight.
- Note that any hard hat/helmet that sustains an impact should be replaced, even if there are no signs of damage.



PLANT MATTERS

The Takeaway

Ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of your PPE head protection, hard hats or helmets, and bump caps requires diligence and regular inspection/maintenance. By following the guidelines we've suggested, you can maximize the protection your headgear provides and maintain a safe working environment. Regular cleaning, inspecting for signs of wear or damage, and replacing components as needed are essential practices. Adhering to manufacturer instructions and never compromising the integrity of your PPE head protection is critical. These proactive steps will extend the life of your headgear equipment and ensure it continues to safeguard you as intended.

Prioritize your safety by making the maintenance of your PPE head protection a routine part of your safety protocol.

Terry Dougherty is a Customer Support Specialist and has more than 45 years of sales and technical support experience in the AIRMATIC products and services used in manufacturing, construction, energy production, and mining.

Thanks for reading our post. If you'd like to learn more about protective headwear, please contact one of our experts at **+215-333-5600** or at **infocenter@airmatic.com**.