



# What to Wear

## Personal Protective Equipment in the Warehouse

You may not give much thought to protective clothing and equipment when it comes to your warehouse work. You may want to get incoming or outgoing orders processed as efficiently as possible. But with all those pallets, racks and packages around you, it helps to pay close attention to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

### Types of Personal Protective Equipment

Although models and materials may vary, here are the most common types of PPE:

- protective footwear,
- hard hats,
- goggles or safety glasses,
- earplugs or headsets, and
- gloves.

Deciding what PPE to wear depends on the products you handle and how they're packaged. One company asks its workers to wear protective footwear and hard hats but not gloves, because there is no direct contact with the product. Another company doesn't require helmets but provides ear protection in the mechanized portion of its dry-grocery warehouse.

Whether PPE use is mandatory or up to your discretion, learn what is available for your tasks—and how to wear it properly.

### Personal Protective Equipment for Hazardous Materials

Warehouse workers can maximize their safety around hazardous materials by wearing PPE. Even though hazardous substances are usually packaged and sealed, spills, punctures and containers tumbling off racks can quickly turn into emergencies.

Common maintenance supplies can pose special problems if workers don't protect themselves properly. Such products may contain hazardous chemicals. It pays to read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for such supplies to see what PPE is recommended prior to handling the material.

### Personal Protective Equipment and the Loading Dock

The loading dock is a crucial area for PPE use. Containers damaged in shipping can spill materials onto employees as trailer doors swing open. Or poorly balanced products can fall over onto a worker filling out a form. Consider the benefits of wearing PPE when you work at the loading dock.

### Think Safety First

If you forget or lose some item of your PPE, you'll benefit in the long run if you ask for a replacement before you start work. Safety is everyone's responsibility, and that includes in a warehouse.

Zenith provides workplace safety resources at:

**TheZenith.com**<sup>SM</sup>

Distributed under license. © Parlay International (v.2) 1510.022  
Only Licensees may copy or distribute this page, electronically or otherwise. For license information call 800-457-2752 or visit [www.parlay.com](http://www.parlay.com)