

... MARCH 2011 ...

QUICK TAKES



Focus on Eye Safety

Experts estimate that 90 percent of all eye injuries could have been prevented by simply taking a few precautions or wearing protective eyewear. Unlike other parts of the body that can heal after a serious injury, your eyes -- and your vision -- may never recover from some wounds. To prevent eye injury remember:

- Wear eye protection that is appropriate for the job, sport or other activity.
- Handle dangerous tools, devices and chemicals with caution.
- The best way to encourage your children to wear protective eyewear is to wear it yourself!

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Eye Injury Prevention

Prevent eye injury on the job.

Eye injuries of all types occur at a rate of more than 2,000 per day in the U.S. About half of those injuries occur in the workplace. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that 70 percent of workplace eye injuries occur from falling or flying objects, or sparks striking the eye.

The best ways to prevent injury to the eye is to always wear the appropriate eye protection. Surprisingly, the BLS reports that approximately three out of every five workers injured were either not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident or wearing the wrong kind of eye protection for the job.



Wear protective eyewear at home and in the garden

Protective eyewear is not just for a hazardous workplace environment, but also for working around the house with machines, chemicals and power tools.

Remember:



- Always wear safety glasses when using a snowblower, mower, string trimmer, chainsaw or other power garden tool.



- Keep a pair of safety glasses in your car in case you need to jump-start the battery. Battery acid, sparks and debris flying from damaged batteries can severely damage your eyes.



- Household chemicals can seriously burn your eyes if used improperly. Always read instructions and labels carefully before using cleaning fluids, detergents, ammonia or other harsh chemicals. Wear safety goggles and work in a well-ventilated area.



- Wear safety glasses when hammering on metal.

Most protective eyewear lenses are made of polycarbonate. The lightweight, shatterproof plastic is 10 times stronger than other plastics. To make sure safety glasses meet the standards of the American National Standards Institute, look for "ANSI Z87.1" stamped on one of the bows.