



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

One of the most common pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) that is needed for a job is safety glasses. Workers must use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.

Safety glasses have come a long way in the last several years. A variety of styles, tints, and lens types are available to fit you and conditions of the job. The following contrasts the benefits of each lens type available:

## Glass Lenses –

- Not easily scratched.
- Can be used around harsh chemicals.
- Can be made in your corrective prescription.
- Sometimes heavy & uncomfortable

## Plastic Lenses –

- Lighter in weight.
- Protect against welding splatter.
- Not likely to fog.

## Polycarbonate Lenses –

- Lightweight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Not likely to fog
- Stronger than glass & plastic
- More impact-resistant

Safety glasses that fog up in higher temperatures or during labor-intensive work are very aggravating & lead to the temptation to take them off. **Anti-fog glasses and anti-fog solutions/wipes** have been shown to significantly reduce this problem, so results in increased eye protection use.

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Dollar store sunglasses should not be worn in place of safety glasses. True safety glasses & face protection shields that are approved for use will have **Z87.1 marked on the earpiece or shield structure**. These are made with shatter-resistant lenses to protect from flying impacts.

**Do you have an easily accessible supply of safety glasses?** Keeping them close by in the shop, office, or work truck it will increase worker usage. Let you're the user have a choice on comfort, fit, & style.

## Eye Injury First Aid:

Specks in the Eye - Don't rub the affected eye.

Flush the eye with lots of water. See a doctor if the speck doesn't wash out, or if pain or redness continues.

Cuts, Punctures, and Foreign Objects in the Eye -

Unlike with specks of dust or metal, be sure **NOT** to wash out the affected eye. Don't try to remove a foreign object stuck in the eye. Seek immediate medical attention.

Chemical Burns - Immediately flush the eye with water or

drinkable liquid. Open the eye as wide as possible. Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes, even on your way to seeking medical care. If a contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately. Flushing may dislodge the lens. Seek immediate medical attention.

Blows to the Eye - Apply a cold compress without

pressure, or tape crushed ice in a plastic bag to the forehead and allow it to rest gently on the injured eye. Seek immediate medical attention if pain continues, if you have reduced vision, or if blood or discoloration appears in the eye.

## Sources:

<https://www.osha.gov>  
<https://www.vsp.com/eye-injuries.html>  
<https://incident-prevention.com/ip-articles/a-second-look-at-safety-glasses>