

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR LEAD
(OSHA)

Concentration of Lead or Condition of Use	Respirator Type ¹
Not in excess of 0.5 mg/m ³ (10X PEL.)	Half-mask, air-purifying respirator equipped with high efficiency filters. ^{2, 3}
Not in excess of 2.5 mg/m ³ (50X PEL.)	Full facepiece, air-purifying respirator with high efficiency filters.
Not in excess of 50 mg/m ³ (1000X PEL.)	(1) Any powered, air-purifying respirator with high efficiency filters; or (2) Half-mask supplied-air respirator operated in positive-pressure mode. ²
Not in excess of 100 mg/m ³ (2000X PEL.)	Supplied-air respirators with full facepiece, hood, helmet, or suit operated in positive-pressure mode.
Greater than 100 mg/m ³ unknown concentration or fire fighting.	Full facepiece, self-contained breathing apparatus operated in positive-pressure mode.

1

Respirators specified for high concentrations can be used at lower concentrations of lead.

2

Full facepiece is required if the lead aerosols cause eye or skin irritation at the use concentrations.

3

A high efficiency particulate filter means 99.97 percent efficient against 0.3 micron size particles.