

Donning and Doffing PPE

This SOP applies to donning and doffing PPE worn when handling hazardous materials. It is important to don and doff PPE appropriately to ensure personnel protection because PPE could be contaminated with hazardous agents after use.

Procedure:

Don PPE in the following order:

1. Lab coat or gown
2. Respiratory protection (surgical mask, respirator) (if needed)
3. Shoe covers and/or bouffant cap (if needed)
4. Face/eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, face mask)—adjust to fit
5. Gloves—extend to cover wrists of lab coat or gown

Doff PPE in the following order:

1. Gloves
 - Avoid touching the outside of the gloves with bare hands
 - Immediately dispose as biohazardous waste
2. Face/eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, face mask)
 - Handle by headband or earpiece
 - Place in designated receptacle for decontamination or dispose as biohazardous waste
3. Lab coat or gown
 - Unfasten ties/buttons/snaps
 - Remove by touching the inside of the lab coat/gown only
 - Turn inside out
 - Fold or bundle and place in designated receptacle for decontamination or dispose as biohazardous waste
4. Respiratory protection (surgical mask, respirator)
 - Grasp bottom then top ties or elastics and remove
 - Place in designated receptacle for decontamination or dispose as biohazardous waste
5. Shoe coverings and/or bouffant cap

- Remove by touching the inside only
 - Immediately dispose as biohazardous waste
6. Wash hands with soap and water per the Hand Sanitation SOP

Cautions & Considerations

- The type of PPE required will vary for different procedures or hazards and is described in lab-specific SOPs
- Ensure that PPE fits correctly and covers exposed skin
- Change gloves whenever contaminated or compromised
- When double gloving, remove and dispose of outer gloves with hands inside the biosafety cabinet then re-don outer gloves after removing hands from the biosafety cabinet
- When removing PPE, treat the outside of all items as though contaminated
- Remove PPE and wash hands before entering public areas
- Keep gloved hands away from face or items that are handled with bare hands
- Send reusable PPE for laundering only to an approved cleaning company

Resources

- [Biosafety Manual](#)
- [BMBL 5th Edition](#)
- CDC Fact Sheet "[How to remove gloves](#)"
- CDC Fact Sheet "[Sequence for Donning/Doffing](#) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)"