

Choosing the right air-purifying cartridge

When selecting a cartridge for your air-purifying respirator, it is important to consider the type of exposure. Once the exposure is identified, the appropriate colour coded cartridge can be chosen. There is no cartridge that can protect against all exposures, so it is important to select the right one. Here is a general list of cartridge colours and the types of exposures they protect against:



Cartridge colour coding	Contaminant	Cartridge colour coding	Contaminant
Pink	P100 (HEPA) filter for particulates	Black	Organic vapours
White	Acid gas	Orange	Mercury vapour, chlorine gas
Green	Ammonia and methylamine	Olive	Other gases or vapours
Yellow	Acid gas and organic vapours	Black and Olive	Formaldehyde and organic vapours

Several combination cartridges exist which provide protection for both colours. Some examples are:

Cartridge colour coding	Contaminant	Cartridge colour coding	Contaminant
Pink and Yellow	Acid gas and organic vapours + particulates	Pink and Green	Ammonia and methylamine + particulates
Pink and Olive	Other gases or vapours + particulates	Pink and Black	Organic vapours + particulates

Important points to consider:

- Selecting a cartridge is just one component of the overall respirator program
- Ensure that your respirator is properly fit-tested before use
- Use proper eye protection when necessary
- Always refer to the manufacturer or supervisor if you are unsure about which cartridge to use
- Replace the cartridge when it becomes difficult to breathe

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number on shift: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by attendees:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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