

# How to Clean and Reuse Personal Protective Equipment



## Disposable gloves—don't reuse.

As soon as you take off gloves, throw them in the trash. Don't wash, sanitize or reuse them.

## Goggles and face shields—clean, disinfect and reuse.

1. Put on gloves, if available.
2. Wipe the inside of the goggles or face shield with a cleaning wipe or a clean cloth with mild detergent.
3. Wipe the outside with a clean cloth or wipe and neutral detergent.
4. Wipe the outside with an EPA-approved disinfectant effective against COVID-19.
5. Air dry.
6. Remove gloves and wash hands.

## Disposable gowns and coveralls—don't reuse.

As soon as you take off gowns or coveralls, throw them in the trash. Don't wash, sanitize or reuse them. Consider using cloth gowns (see below).

## Cloth gowns, lab coats and patient gowns—launder and reuse.

1. Put on gloves, if desired.
2. Don't shake used coats or gowns.
3. Wash using the warmest water setting and laundry soap.
4. Remove gloves and wash hands.
5. Dry completely using the hottest dryer setting.
6. Check for holes and tears. Mend or remove from service.
7. Store in clean container or area.

## Homemade masks—launder and reuse.

Wash after each use. Change as soon as possible if it gets wet with sweat or is contaminated with spray from a nearby cough or sneeze.

1. Put on gloves, if desired.
2. Don't shake used masks.
3. Wash using the warmest water setting and laundry soap.
4. Remove gloves and wash hands.
5. Dry completely using the hottest dryer setting.

6. Check for holes and tears. Mend or remove from service.
7. Store in clean container or area.

## **Surgical face masks—can wear longer than usual and reuse if properly stored.**

Can't be washed. Throw away if it gets wet with sweat or is contaminated with spray from a nearby cough or sneeze.  
**Don't reuse facemasks that tie or can't be removed without tearing.**

To store:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
2. Take off the mask.
3. Fold the outer surface of the mask inward to reduce outer surface area during storage.
4. Place in a new or cleaned, breathable storage container, like a paper bag, labeled to show whose mask it is.
5. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

To put back on:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
2. Open the container and inspect the mask. If torn, damaged or soiled, throw in the trash.
3. Put mask on. If difficult to breathe through, throw in the trash.
4. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

## **Respirators N95 or higher (reserved for first responders and healthcare workers)—can wear for longer than usual and reuse if properly stored.**

Can't be washed. Throw away if it gets wet with sweat or is contaminated with spray from a nearby cough or sneeze.  
Follow manufacturer's recommended maximum number of times respirator can be reused.

To store:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
2. Take off the respirator.
3. Hang in a designated storage area so respirator don't touch. Or place in a new or cleaned, breathable storage container, like a paper bag, labeled to show whose respirator it is.
4. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

To put back on:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
  2. Inspect the respirator. If torn, damaged or soiled, throw in the trash.
  3. Put respirator on. If difficult to breathe through, throw in the trash.
- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

For more information about COVID-19, visit [tpchd.org/coronavirus](https://tpchd.org/coronavirus). Questions? Email [communitysafety@tpchd.org](mailto:communitysafety@tpchd.org).