

SOP: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements for Handling Waste

This SOP details the **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for handling waste**, specifying the essential protective gear necessary to ensure the safety and health of personnel involved in waste management. It covers proper selection, usage, maintenance, and disposal of PPE such as gloves, masks, goggles, and protective clothing to prevent exposure to hazardous materials and contaminants. The procedure aims to minimize risks of injury, infection, and contamination while promoting compliance with occupational health and safety standards.

1. Scope

This SOP applies to all staff involved in waste handling, collection, transportation, segregation, and disposal activities within the facility, including both hazardous and non-hazardous waste streams.

2. Responsibilities

- **Supervisors:** Ensure staff training and compliance with PPE requirements.
- **Personnel:** Wear and maintain PPE as directed.
- **Safety Officer:** Monitor, review, and update PPE standards.

3. Required PPE

PPE Type	Description	When to Use
Gloves (nitrile, latex, or heavy-duty)	Hand protection from contaminants, chemicals, or sharps.	At all times while handling or sorting waste.
Face Masks/Respirators	Prevents inhalation of dust, aerosols, and pathogens.	When handling infectious, dusty, or chemical-containing waste.
Goggles or Face Shields	Protects eyes from splashes, dust, and debris.	During waste sorting, transport, or disposal.
Protective Clothing (gowns, coveralls, aprons)	Prevents contamination of skin and personal clothing.	Whenever direct contact with waste is possible.
Shoe Covers/Boots	Protects feet from spills and sharps.	In areas where waste or hazardous liquids are present.

4. Procedure

1. **Selection:** Select PPE appropriate for the type of waste being handled based on risk assessment.
2. **Inspection:** Check PPE before use for damage, defects, or contamination. Replace damaged PPE as required.
3. **Donning:** Put on all required PPE *before* entering waste handling areas following correct procedures.
4. **During Use:** Avoid touching face and other surfaces with contaminated gloves. Replace PPE as needed if soiled or torn.
5. **Doffing:** Remove PPE in designated areas, avoiding contamination of skin, clothing, or environment. Follow hand hygiene guidelines after PPE removal.
6. **Disposal:** Dispose of single-use PPE in appropriate waste bins. Store reusable PPE for cleaning/disinfection as per facility protocol.

5. Maintenance and Storage

- Clean and disinfect reusable PPE after each use and store in designated clean areas.
- Inspect PPE regularly for wear or damage.
- Replace PPE per manufacturer's recommendations or if visibly damaged/contaminated.

6. Training and Compliance

- All personnel must undergo training on PPE selection, use, and disposal.
- Refresher training should be provided at least annually, or when procedures/equipment change.

- Document training and compliance using training records and spot checks.

7. References

- Occupational Health and Safety Standards (Specify relevant local/national regulations)
- Manufacturer's PPE instructions and datasheets
- Facility Health and Safety Manual

8. Revision History

Version	Date	Description of Change
1.0	2024-06-14	Initial SOP creation and implementation.