HOW TO TELL IF AN

N95 RESPIRATOR IS NIOSH APPROVED





DEFINING "NIOSH APPROVED"

A NIOSH-approved N95 is the most common type of filtering facepiece respirator (FFR), which is a type of disposable respirator meant to form a tight seal to the face, removing particles from the air as you breathe through it. This includes all types of particles, such as bacteria, viruses, and dust. When used in an occupational setting, NIOSH-approved respirators, including N95s, are meant to be used as part of a workplace's respiratory protection program. These programs are regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and must include specific elements such as medical evaluations, fit testing, and training.

HOW TO TELL IF AN N95 IS NIOSH APPROVED

The easiest way to tell if your N95 is NIOSH approved is to search for it on the NIOSH Certified Equipment List (CEL). All NIOSH approved respirators have a testing and certification (TC) approval number (e.g., TC 84A-XXXXX), which must be printed on the respirator. If you search a NIOSH TC approval number and no results are found within the CEL, that means it is not a valid NIOSH approval number and the product is not NIOSH approved.



REQUIRED INFORMATION

ON AN N95 ABBREVIATED LABEL

- Name of approval holder/manufacturer business name
- Part number (which may be the model number)
- NIOSH filter series and filter efficiency level, which will be N95
- NIOSH Testing and Certification approval number, e.g., TC-84A-XXXX
- NIOSH in capital block letters
- Lot number may be on the N95 abbreviated label or the product packaging



Additionally, respirators that have earned NIOSH approval will have specific labeling printed on the facepiece. You may see some respirators on the market labeled as "N95," but if a respirator does not contain all of the components of the required label, it is not a NIOSH-approved respirator and, therefore, cannot be relied on to provide the same level of respiratory protection.

