

gibca **SAFETY** TOOLBOX TALKS



Eye Safety and Protection

Potential dangers to eyesight are common on almost every jobsite. Dust from wood, cement, or drywall can scratch the surface of the eye causing what is known as corneal abrasion.

A corneal abrasion is one of the most common injuries: it often causes significant discomfort, red eyes, and hypersensitivity to light.

7 ways to prevent eye injuries:

1. Identify potential eye hazards on the job site before you start work.
2. **Always wear the correct eye protection for the task/job.**
3. Be sure your safety glasses have “Z87+” on the frame or lenses. This indicates that they are tested and rated for impact resistance.
4. Take care of your eye protection. Replace it when damaged.
5. Know where the closest eyewash station is located on the job site.
6. Use face shields with safety glasses or goggles for protection from flying objects or chemical splashes.
7. When welding, use a welding helmet with the correct lens shade. Remember that welders’ helpers and bystanders also need to wear eyewear with UV protection.

3 Tips to Remember If Your Eye(s) Get Injured:

1. Should a foreign object penetrate your eye, alert your supervisor immediately. Do not attempt to remove it yourself, as greater injury to the eye may be done. Do not rub the eye as rubbing may further imbed any foreign material.
2. If dust, small particles, or chemicals get into your eyes, use the eyewash station. Rinse your eyes with clean water for at least 15 to 20 minutes.
3. For cuts, punctures, and objects in the eyes, seek immediate medical attention.