



ALCA
ARIZONA LANDSCAPE
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

EYE PROTECTION

Every day an estimated 1,000 eye injuries occur in American workplaces. No matter where we work, flying particles, dusts, splashes or flying objects are apt to expose us to potential eye injury. Fortunately, we can protect against these hazards by using the appropriate protective eyewear for our jobs. A survey by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of approximately 1,000 minor eye injuries revealed on-the-job accidents occurred due to:

- Not wearing eye protection. BLS reports that nearly three out of every five workers injured were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident.
- Wearing the wrong kind of eye protection for the job. About 40 of the injured workers were wearing some form of eye protection when the accident occurred. These workers were most likely to be wearing eyeglasses with no side shields, though injuries among employees wearing full-cup or flat-fold side shields occurred, as well.



What causes eye injuries?

- Flying particles. BLS found that almost 70% of the accidents studied resulted from flying or falling objects or sparks striking the eye. Injured workers estimated that nearly three-fifths of the objects were smaller than a pin head. Most of the particles were said to be traveling faster than a hand-thrown object when the accident occurred.
- Contact with chemicals caused one-fifth of the injuries.
- Other accidents were caused by objects swinging from a fixed or attached position, like tree limbs, ropes, chains, or tools which were pulled into the eye while the worker was using them.

What type of eye protection is right for you?

Safety Glasses—Wear safety glasses anytime you are in the production area. Safety glasses with side shields are a good form of eye protection for general use to prevent flying debris and or objects from coming into contact with your eyes.

Safety Goggles—When using compressed air or handling harmful chemicals, wear safety goggles. Goggles offer superior protection from small flying debris and particles as well as chemical splashes.

Face Shields—When grinding, changing propane or changing batteries, wear a face shield along with safety glasses or goggles. This gives additional protection to your face during these types of tasks.

