

# Use and Disinfection of Laser Eyewear Protection During COVID 19

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Radiation Protection Program

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Laser Eye Protection should not be shared if feasible and should be cleaned regularly (before and after use) using the manufacturer recommendations. LEP should also be stored in a manner that maintains cleanliness (i.e., in the original container)

Most Laser Eye Protection can be adversely impacted by disinfection solutions being suggested for cleaning and disinfection for the COVID19 Virus. In fact, damage to the eyewear may not be detectable if using cleaning solutions other than those recommended by the manufacturer potentially leading to an unsafe work environment. If LEP must be shared, reach out to the manufacturer for instructions specific to your model of eyewear. Even if not sharing LEP, it is a best practice to clean/disinfect routinely.

To clean eyewear, some manufacturers suggest mild soap and warm (not hot) water. Be sure that the soap is free of any abrasives (such as micro beads or grit). With clean hands, rinse the eyewear and apply a small amount of soap with your fingertips. Do not use circular motions whilst cleaning as this may affect coatings. Dry with soft lint free cloth by pressing gently against water droplets. Avoid rubbing as much as possible. This cloth should be kept somewhere where it will stay clean (inside the original container), and should be washed weekly if possible, without fabric softener or dryer sheets. Any dust or dirt that accumulates in the cloth can damage the eyewear. Special care is needed for laser eyewear with coatings and most manufacturers provide special instructions for these.

Inspect eyewear regularly, especially after cleaning.

Eyewear should be checked for cracks, holes, deep scratches, discoloration or other damage (such as stems or straps which may not properly support the glasses in front of your eyes). Eyewear should be checked to see that it is clearly labeled with the wavelength(s) it provides protection against; and that the optical density for each wavelength listed is appropriate.

Be aware that laser system manufacturers often distribute eyewear as a third party. Be sure to follow the original manufacturer's instructions.

Please contact the Radiation Protection Program for any questions.

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