

# RESPIRATOR SEAL CHECKS

**IOWA**

College of Public Health



**GREAT PLAINS**  
Center for Agricultural Health

Respirators can provide protection from respiratory hazards. To provide effective protection, a respirator must fit the individual.

To ensure a respirator fits:

- ✓ **Participate in an annual respirator fit test**
- ✓ **Ensure there is nothing blocking the seal (e.g., facial hair)**
- ✓ **Perform a seal check EVERY TIME a respirator is put on**

After each use, clean respirator and store in an airtight container.

## FILTERING FACEPIECE

## ELASTOMERIC



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*Perform a positive & negative pressure check for BOTH types of respirators.*

### POSITIVE PRESSURE CHECKS

Exhale while covering respirator  
**Seal Achieved:** If respirator slightly expands

### NEGATIVE PRESSURE CHECKS

Inhale while covering respirator  
**Seal Achieved:** If respirator slightly collapses

### FOR FILTERING FACEPIECE:

#### If Air Leaks In/Out...

Readjust nosepiece with both fingers.  
Repeat check until seal is achieved.

### FOR ELASTOMERIC:

#### If Air Leaks In/Out...

Readjust the straps.  
Repeat check until seal is achieved.

*Follow the manufacturer's instructions for seal checks on specific respirators.*