

Acquiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Assess Employee Needs

- Conduct a brief assessment to identify the PPE you need. Identifying the unique heat or UV risks at your workplace can help you determine the type of purchase.
- Choose PPE that is well-constructed, comfortable, and can be maintained in a clean and consistent way.
- Review any applicable workplace standards/regulations to ensure that you choose PPE that is compliant.

Check With Your In-House Vendor

- If you already have a vendor, consult with them first or look through their catalogue. They may already have many of these items in stock and having a single vendor can make it easier to manage supplies and orders.

Look In Safety Company Catalogues

- Look through the online catalogues of external vendors to find PPE.
- Request samples from some PPE vendors. You can use samples to get feedback from employees and assess whether the PPE effectively addresses the unique sun safety hazards employees may experience at your workplace.

Search Online

- Not sure where to start? Do an online search to find potential vendors and PPE options.
- Identify the items you want to purchase and combine them with keywords such as “UV safety,” “heat protection,” and “vendor.”



List of Sun Safety PPE	
Item	Description
Wide-brimmed hats	Prevents sun damage and provides shade
Hard hat brim extenders	Can be attached to hard hats to protect the neck and ears from UV rays
Hard hat liners	Moisture-wicking liners can be placed inside of hard hats to absorb sweat and keep workers dry and comfortable
Hard hat cooling pads	Can be placed inside of a hard hat to provide cooling
Neck shades	Can be attached to most hard hats to protect from sun damage or submerged in water to provide cooling
Neck guards/gaiters	Can be worn to protect from sun damage or submerged in water to provide cooling
Bandanas	Can be effective in preventing sun damage to the neck
Long-sleeved shirts	Can be effective in preventing sun damage to the torso
Long pants	Can be effective in preventing sun damage to the legs
Cooling vests	Helps keep the core body temperature lower, to prevent overheating
Sunglasses	Protects the eyes and the skin around the eyes from UV exposure. Look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of UVA/UVB or UV absorption up to 400nm
Sunscreen	Prevents sun burn and long-term sun damage when applied regularly; SPF 30 or above is recommended
Sunscreen reapplication stickers	Stickers that detect UV radiation and turn purple to alert wearer to reapply sunscreen
Lip balm with SPF	Prevents sunburn, sun damage, and dryness on the lips
Water bottles	Insulated, refillable water bottles allow workers to hydrate throughout the day
UV monitors/dosimeter	A device that can be used to monitor levels of UV radiation
Ice packs	Can be used to provide cooling
Cooling towels	Can be dipped in water and strained to provide cooling
Pop-up canopies	A portable shelter to provide shade at worksites
Large plastic tub or tarp	Can be used to cool an overheated employee with cold water and ice

