



August 31, 2011

Head Protection: Hardhats

A head injury can impair a person for life or can be fatal. Wearing a hardhat is one of the easiest ways to protect your head. Hardhats help protect from impact and penetration hazards, as well as from electrical shock and burn hazards.

Sizing and Care of Hardhats

Hardhats provided by our company have an adjustable headband to ensure a proper fit. A good fit will allow sufficient clearance between the shell and the suspension system (1" - 1¼" away from head) for ventilation and distribution of an impact. The hat should not bind, slip, fall off, or irritate the skin. You should clean your hardhat as need to remove dirt and grease:

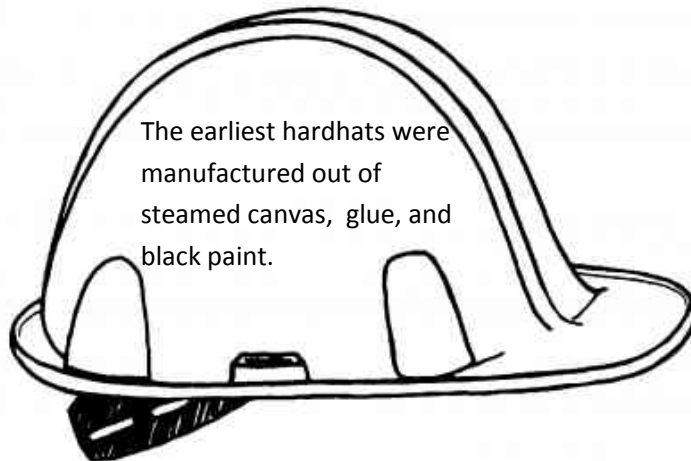
Immerse hardhat in hot water and soap for one minute.

Scrub.

Rinse well in warm water.

Allow to air dry completely.

Inspect for defects; replace if needed.



The earliest hardhats were manufactured out of steamed canvas, glue, and black paint.

Hardhats must be worn on the jobsite at all times! If you need a hardhat, let your supervisor know, and the company will provide you with one.

When to replace your hardhat

Ideally, you will want to inspect your hardhat every day. It only takes a minute to look it over. If you notice any of the following, your hardhat needs to be replaced:

- ▶ The brim or shell is nicked, cracked, perforated, or deformed.
- ▶ The surface is chalking, fading, or flaking.
- ▶ The shell is stiff or brittle.

You will also need to replace your hardhat if:

- ▶ It is struck by a falling object.
- ▶ It has made electrical contact.