



Hearing protection for residential construction

Residential construction workers are often exposed to on-the-job noise that can permanently damage hearing.

It is important to wear hearing protection when exposed to noise. Sources of noise include air nailers, chop saws, chainsaws, circular saws, routers, screw guns, drills, and power planers.

The employer is responsible for providing protection. Earmuffs or earplugs are acceptable.

As communication with co-workers may be critical, hearing protectors that do not block out too much sound should be worn, such as

- Custom-molded earplugs with vents
- Banded earplugs (earplugs on a band)
- Class B earplugs or earmuffs
- Electronic earmuffs or earplugs

Many types of hearing protectors are available. Several factors determine which is the best protector for an individual worker. **The two most important factors are comfort and noise exposure level.**

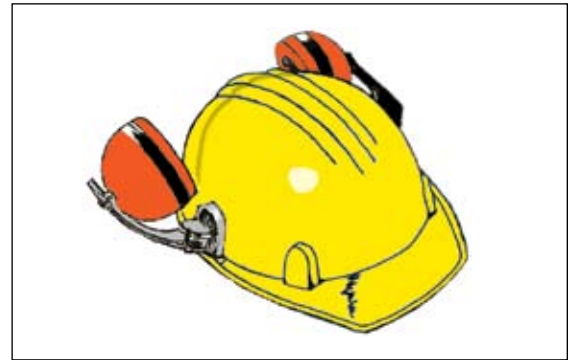
Other considerations when choosing a hearing protector include

- Physical requirements on the job (climbing, bending, lying down)
- Hearing levels of the workers
- Temperature in the workplace
- Use of other personal protective devices
- Physical characteristics of the worker—for example, size and shape of head or ear canals

To monitor the effectiveness of hearing protection, construction workers must have their hearing tested **every year** by persons authorized by WorkSafeBC. A coloured record card is issued to each worker as proof of a hearing test.

A hearing test includes discussion of

- The test results and what they mean
- What follow-up by the worker may be required
- Hearing protection—an in-depth look at use, care, fit, maintenance, suitability, preferences, etc.



There are many options for hearing protection on a construction site.

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
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11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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