

6 Steps to Clean Particulate-Protective Hoods



The fire service recognizes that clean PPE can help keep you safe. NFPA 1851 requires the user to evaluate gear after each use to check for any damage and to determine the appropriate cleaning level necessary. This includes instructions for “preliminary exposure reduction” on scene and an advanced cleaning at least twice a year or whenever on-scene cleaning is not sufficient. While we encourage everyone to read the detailed instructions found in NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, here are steps to assist in cleaning your particulate-protective hood.

1. CLEAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SCENE

Perform preliminary exposure reduction on scene by gently brushing off any loose debris. Should any debris or materials be adhered to the components/fabric of the hood, remove the hood from service until it can be subjected to an advanced cleaning.



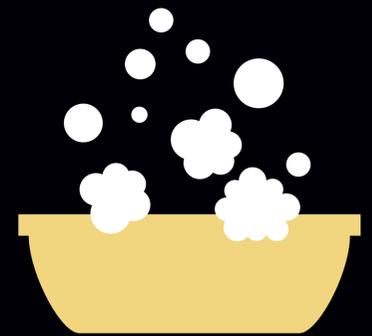
2. INSPECT

Wear exam gloves and eye protection during this process. Any physical damage will need to be addressed before the hood is returned to service.



3. PRETREAT AND WASH

Hoods can be hand or machine washed. If necessary, pretreat heavily soiled areas before laundering. To hand wash hoods, use a utility sink or other suitable container and allow the hood to presoak for at least 10 minutes. Lightly rub the hood material together, starting with the exterior and then turning the hood inside out. Avoid stretching or wringing the hood out; hoods should be slightly squeezed to remove excess water after washing. If hoods are machine laundered, the machine should be a washer/extractor that is programmable to permit multiple formulations for adjustments of detergent application, water temperature, water level, cycle type/function, and cycle time. The washer/extractor g-force must not exceed 100G. Whether hand or machine washing, use a mild detergent with a pH range of not less than 6.0 and not greater than 10.5 and a wash water temperature that is not higher than 105°F. Hoods should be thoroughly rinsed following washing.



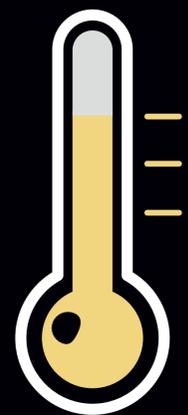
4. RE-INSPECT

Once the hood has been washed, inspect it to ensure it is clean. If necessary, repeat Step 3.



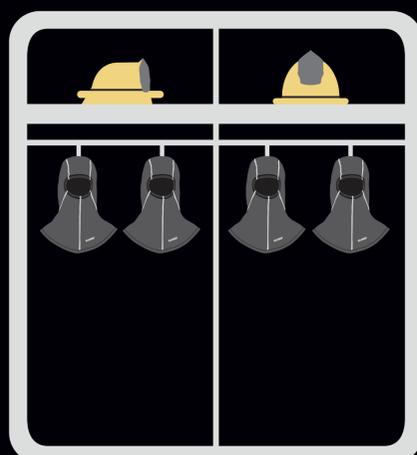
5. DRYING

NFPA 1851 requires that protective elements be dried out of direct or indirect lighting, especially sunlight. If machine drying hoods, tumble dry on “no heat” or lowest possible machine setting, with the basket temperature of the dryer not to exceed 105°F. If air drying, lay the hood on a drying rack or other surface that helps promote draining of water from the hood, again out of direct light.



6. STORAGE

Store clean hoods in a dry, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight and away from indoor light sources. Do not store in extreme hot or cold temperatures, nor in airtight containers.



ONLINE RESOURCES

MSAfire.com/Globe | PPE101.com | NFPA.org

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