

Avon Protection Supplied Air Disinfection Procedure – Fire / Industrial

NOTICE: To ensure proper operation of Avon Protection supplied air respirators and achieve maximum protection for users, the procedures to clean and disinfect are outlined in this notification. The procedures are supplemental to the User Instructions provided with each product. The procedures are based on current knowledge and best practice within the industry. However, precedence should be given to guidance and direction provided by local infection control, health and safety or healthcare professionals.

Avon Protection would like to remind users of the recommended cleaning procedures when using supplied air respirators, including Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), especially during a possible Coronavirus (COVID-19) deployment.

NOTE: Fit test masks should be processed similarly to APR masks. Please see the User Notice for APR's to clean and disinfect fit test masks.

Although the supplied air system will protect the wearer's respiratory system, the outside of the mask, harnesses, and other components will require cleaning and disinfection after any potential exposure. Processing the entire unit correctly is vital to maintaining its effectiveness in providing the best possible protection while helping reduce the chance of cross contamination.

The survival time of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on soft or hard surfaces has yet to fully determined. Any surface that the mask, backframe, or your gear touches, should also be disinfected following your agencies' Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The CDC defines Cleaning and Disinfecting as the following:

- **Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfecting** refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Avon Protection recommends the use of **Earth Force Neutral Fresh**, which is a quaternary ammonium based cleaner and disinfectant. When mixed and used according to the manufacturer's directions, it is effective against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is available from Avon Protection, **PN 013004**, or from the manufacturer:



Distributed by:
Aero Chemical Company
 P. O. Box 16247
 Atlanta, GA 30321-0247

EPA REG. NO. 1839-169-13103
 EPA EST. NO. 3862-GA-2

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Octyl decyl dimethyl ammonium chloride.....	1.627%
Diocetyl dimethyl ammonium chloride.....	0.814%
Didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride.....	0.814%
Alkyl (50% C14, 40% C12, 10% C16) dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride.....	2.170%
OTHER INGREDIENTS.....	94.575%
Total.....	100.000%

www.aero.abccompounding.com/products/earthforce/6488/

This product is EPA registered and may be found on "List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2", at the EPA website:

www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

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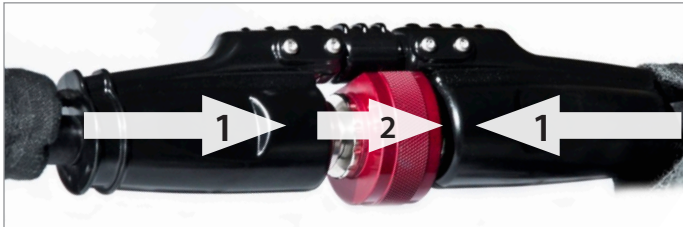
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Perform the following procedures with appropriate PPE, at minimum, gloved hands, using chemicals prepared per manufacturer's directions. Consult the Avon Protection User Instructions for additional details.

AirSwitch Facemask



1 Disconnect facemask hose by pushing connector into the socket (1) and pulling back on the socket sleeve (2). The electronics will unplug with the facemask hose.



2 Open the AirSwitch to allow the disinfectant access to all surfaces of the respirator.

Note: No additional disassembly of the mask is required. The HUD is designed to be submerged during cleaning and disinfecting following these procedures. Do not immerse the hose quick connect / electrical connection in the cleaning solution as some solutions may cause corrosion of electrical contacts.



3 Heavily soiled masks may be cleaned in a solution of warm (~110°F/43°C) water and dish washing soap. A sponge or soft cloth may be used to agitate and assist in soil removal. After soil removal, or if not heavily soiled, continue to the next step.



4 Submerge the facemask in a solution of warm water (~110°F/43°C) and Avon Protection approved disinfectant mixed as recommended. If desired, users may spray disinfectant into the mask, taking care to spray all necessary surfaces.

Notes: Submerging the mask and regulator is an easy method to ensure disinfectant contacts all respirator surfaces. Mixtures stronger than recommended are unnecessary, will be difficult to rinse, and may result in damaged components.



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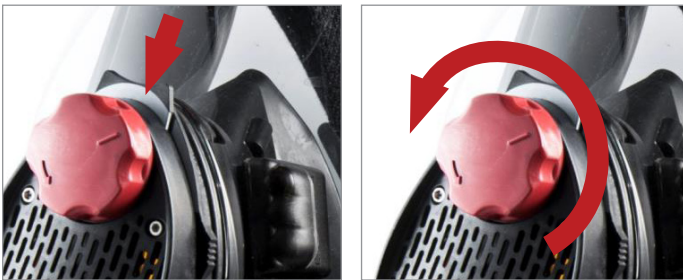
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5 Rinse thoroughly by raising and lowering the mask in the rinse water. Rinsing with clean running water will ensure all contaminants and chemicals have been fully removed.



6 Shake excess water from the mask, connect to an SCBA air supply and flow clean air through the mask by activating the ambient AirSwitch for 15 seconds, and then fully open the bypass knob for 15 seconds. This removes any moisture from within the pneumatics.



7 For best results, wipe dry and polish the mask visor inside and out. Using a soft, clean, lint-free cloth will provide the user the clearest view through the lens.

Note: Alternatively, the mask and regulator may be hung from the pneumatic connection to allow the water to flow and evaporate from mask/regulator. Also, a low pressure (30psig or less) air nozzle may be used to remove moisture, ensuring that only grade D breathing air is used, as grade D breathing air has low moisture content and will not spray compressor oil or other contaminants into the respirator.



8 Verify the respirator functions as expected by connecting the mask / regulator to an SCBA and take a few breaths.

IMPORTANT: Only the issued user should perform the function test to avoid cross contamination.

Key points to remember when disinfecting a facemask:

- Use the proper chemical.
- Mix per the chemical manufacturers directions.
- Allow for proper contact time.
- Thoroughly rinse chemical from the mask and regulator.
- Flush the regulator with breathing air as described and then dry the mask.



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SCBA Backframes

Note: DO NOT disconnect the cylinder or remove the battery pack.



TO CLEAN: Fully extend shoulder straps and waist belts to full open position. Remove any dirt or debris with a brush or a sponge using mild dishwashing soap and warm water.

TO DISINFECT: Mix the approved disinfectant, then apply using a brush, sponge, or spray to coat the entire apparatus with the solution. Allow to remain in contact for the recommended time. Rinse with low pressure water only. Wipe Dry. Perform a functional test prior to returning to service.

Key points to remember when disinfecting a backframe:

- Do not disconnect the cylinder until after the unit has been final rinsed.
- Pay particular attention to textiles such as harness, sleeves, and buddy breather pouches.
- Wipe down and allow to dry fully.
- Perform a functional test prior to returning to service.

In lieu of the recommended Neutral Fresh for disinfecting, which may not be readily available during a shortage, other quaternary ammonium based disinfectants may be utilized at the users discretion provided they are registered with the EPA and found on List N, via the link above. Guidelines for selecting other “quat” disinfectants would be pH in the range of 5-9, with a neutral pH of about 7 being closer to ideal.

The Centers for Disease Control also have additional guidelines for cleaning and disinfection:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html

Although alcohol is not recommended for use on the SCBA, it is described on the CDC website, with concentrations for proper disinfection to be 70-90%, either **isopropyl** or **ethyl alcohol**. **NEVER** use methanol as it is extremely poisonous.

As with any disinfectant, a minimum contact time is necessary to be effective. Also be mindful that alcohol is extremely flammable and evaporates quickly, making it difficult to obtain the minimum contact time.

Please note the section on using commonly available household chlorine bleach, with additional guidelines available here:

www.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.html

The chlorine bleach solution would be the last and worst option to disinfect your SCBA and facemask, but is included here to be comprehensive. The chlorine bleach solution will greatly accelerate the deterioration of the SCBA components, especially textiles such as Kevlar on the backframe harnesses, as well as head harnesses and other textile sleeves and pouches. It is also corrosive to metals and may deteriorate the mask visor. Chlorine bleach is not recommended for use on the SCBA, however if utilized for disinfection, adhere to the specific guidelines given by the CDC for selection of fresh chemical, mix ratio, and ensure a thorough rinsing beyond that normally performed, as well as drying.

As knowledge of the SARS-CoV-2 virus increases and additional information becomes available regarding disinfecting breathing apparatus, this User Notification may be updated. Please be mindful and check back for updates.

Be safe!

Any questions or concerns, please contact Avon Protection Customer Service:

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