



When it comes to protecting workers' hearing, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. 3M delivers an unmatched variety of innovative hearing protectors and communication solutions, making it easy to select the right protection for your needs. A broad range of sizes and materials is available, helping provide the right fit for each person and the right protection for each application.

#### 3M™ PRODUCT BENEFITS & FEATURES 3M<sup>™</sup> E-A-R<sup>™</sup> Classic<sup>™</sup> Earplugs • Specially formulated foam designed to be firm when rolling down for easier inserting NRR 29 dB **Disposable Roll Down** • Foam softens when warmed to body temperature for low pressure & Uncorded SNR 28 dB Corded high comfort 3M<sup>™</sup> Foam Earplugs - 1100 • Foam softens when warmed to body temperature for high comfort • Tapered shape preferred by some users NRR 29 dB • Foam expands slowly - good product for training workers on how Uncorded Corded SNR 37 dB to properly fit earplugs 3M™ E-A-Rsoft™ Yellow Neons™ Earplugs • Made of 3M's softest to the touch foam • 3M's highest NRR product NRR 33 dB • Brightly colored for hearing protector use compliance checks Uncorded Corded SNR 36 dB 3M<sup>™</sup> E-A-R<sup>™</sup> Push-Ins<sup>™</sup> Earplugs • Easy to use - no roll down required • Works well with dirty hands or users who wear gloves Push-to-Fit NRR 28 dB • Comfortably fits a wide range of ear canal sizes SNR 38 dB Uncorded Corded 3M<sup>™</sup> E-A-R<sup>™</sup> Express<sup>™</sup> Pod Plugs<sup>™</sup> Earplugs • Easy to use - no roll down required Soft foam tips for high comfort NRR 25 dB • Popular with users with small ear canals Uncorded Corded SNR 28 dB Reusable 3M™ E-A-R™ UltraFit™ Earplugs • Innovative triple-flange design fits a wide range of ear sizes • No need to roll down or touch earplug tips to insert into ear canal NRR 25 dB • Reusable - earplugs can be washed and reused, reducing waste SNR 32 dB Uncorded Corded 3M<sup>™</sup> E-A-R<sup>™</sup> Caboflex<sup>™</sup> Hearing Protectors Banded Behind-the-head • Great when moving in and out of high noise areas, fitting comfortably NRR 17 dB, SNR 21 dB around the neck when not in use Under-the-chin • Band may be worn under the chin or behind the head NRR 20 dB, SNR 21 dB

#### **Top Hearing Protection Questions**

### What if my employees don't like wearing hearing protection?

**A:** If 'the products are uncomfortable' due to ear pressure, suggest low pressure PVC earplugs from the Classic™ family. If the plug is too hard, suggest a polyurethane plug such as the E-A-Rsoft™ Yellow Neons™.

**A:** If 'employees want a plug that's easier and quicker to use', suggest the Push-Ins. This patented plug does not require roll down and is easy to insert.

#### What's the best hearing protector for my employees?

**A:** 'Best' is often determined by the users willingness to wear hearing protection properly that feels comfortable, and provides the needed attenuation (noise protection).

#### When should my employees replace their earplugs?

## What should my employees use in a noisy environment?

**A:** Select a suitable variety of hearing protectors that provide adequate noise reduction based on applicable national or local regulations and guidelines.

**A:** Take into consideration the potential risk of overprotection and ability of wearers to hear important sounds.

#### Should my decision be based solely on the highest attenuation rating?

**A:** The hearing protector should match the noise exposure of the employee but comfort is also an important factor since comfortable hearing protectors are likely to be worn more of the time and worn correctly. The hearing protector should also provide a suitable fit. Offering too little or too much protection can both be undesirable.

**A:** If the user insists on always using the highest attenuating product, don't fight it. 3M offers many very high attenuation options that can meet their needs.

# Would one earplug work for all my employees?

**A:** Every ear canal is different and has a different size and shape. In general, one earplug would not fit every employee comfortably.

**A:** Offer several different kinds of hearing protection in order to provide the comfortable options for every employee.

**A:** 3M recommends validating protection through hearing fit testing (i.e. E-A-Rfit) for each employee.

## What should my employees use if they often have dirty hands?

**A:** Offer the employee a Push-to-Fit style earplug. Push-to-Fit are easy to keep clean since no roll-down is required.

**A:** Employees could also use earmuffs. They work well with dirty hands and are easy to take on and off frequently.

**A: Disposable and Push-to-Fit Earplugs** - Washing disposable and push-to-fit earplugs is not recommended but they can be reused several times before they are thrown away. Replace foam earplugs daily or more often if they are damaged, dirty or coated with earwax, or no longer soft and pliable or do not return to their original uncompressed shape when removed from the ear.

**A: Reusable Earplugs** - Reusable earplugs may last several weeks or months depending upon the type, as well as environmental factors. They should be replaced if they tear, crack, or lose their original shape. Wash them with mild soap and warm water as needed. When dry, store them in a carrying case.

#### Why choose 3M Hearing Protection?

- High quality, reliable products from 3M, the trusted leader in the science of hearing protection.
- 3M offers the broadest hearing protection portfolio, is the largest provider of hearing protection solutions worldwide, and has decades of market expertise.
- The 3M™ E-A-Rfit™ Validation System helps users confirm their hearing protection is being used correctly by establishing a Personal Attenuation Rating (PAR). It is differentiated in that it is objective, quantitative, and fast.
- 3M can provide hearing conservation training and education for your employees.



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