

5. If the respirator becomes wet, be sure to dry it before replacing it in the carton. Moisture from the breath should be removed with a soft cloth. **Never dry it over a fire or radiator.**
6. Injuries to the metal canister may prove serious. If the respirator is dropped or damaged in any way, take it to the nearest Air Raid Warden for inspection.
7. Keep the respirator in wholesome condition by wiping the inside of the facepiece and the top of the canister with a sponge or soft cloth soaked in lukewarm, soapy water, and then with a soft, dry cloth. **Be careful not to let any liquid enter the canister.** Use toilet soap only. **Never use soap containing soda.**

To Prevent Dimming

Moisture from the breath may produce mist on the eyepieces of the respirator and interfere with vision. To prevent dimming:

- (a) sponge the inside of the window with clean water;
- (b) wet your finger and rub it on good toilet soap (use no other kind);
- (c) rub the inside of the window with your finger so that a thin, even film of soap covers the whole surface.

TO PARENTS

This respirator is made available to you by the Dominion Government to protect your child's life in case of gas attack. Keep it in good order. Protect it from damage. Don't lose it. Replacement will be difficult.

Ottawa, 1943. Edmond Cloutier, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE AND CARE OF THE SMALL CHILD'S RESPIRATOR

ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS, OTTAWA, CANADA

The Small Child's Respirator (popularly known as the "Mickey Mouse" gas mask) is specially designed to protect children between two and about four and a half years of age against the war gases.

Because children generally do not take kindly to wearing respirators, it has been constructed to make it as acceptable as possible. It is considerably lighter in weight than the ordinary Civilian Respirator and differs from it in other respects.

The facepiece is made of soft rubber so that it will readily take the shape of any child's face and make close contact with the skin without irritating it.

The head-harness is made of elastic material so that the respirator will fit all sizes and shapes of heads without the need of adjustment and, yet, exert only a gentle pull on the facepiece. The harness, itself, is designed to prevent the respirator from being removed easily and it will not weaken appreciably with use.

The metal canister has been made lighter than that of the ordinary Civilian Respirator because a small child breathes less air than an adult and, therefore, less air requires purification.

A **one-way soft rubber valve** is fitted to the facepiece to facilitate **breathing out**. Instead of depending upon the pressure of the exhaled air to raise the edges of the facepiece and escape, as in the Civilian Respirator, the exhaled air passes through the one-way valve which opens freely with the pressure of the child's breath, thus eliminating practically all resistance to breathing.

How to Put It On

The Small Child's Respirator is put on in the same way as the Civilian Respirator and many children, if given proper instruction, quickly learn to put it on themselves.

Usually, it will be necessary for a second person to put the **small child's respirator** on a child. In such cases, the following is the proper procedure:

1. Remove the respirator from its container and make sure that the hook and eye fasteners on the head-harness straps are undone.
2. Place the child in front of you with its back towards you so that its head rests against your body.
3. Remove the child's hat and spectacles, if worn, and pull back its hair so that none of it will get under the facepiece.
4. Put your left thumb **under** the bottom and middle straps on the left side of the head-harness and your right thumb **under** the bottom and middle straps on the right side of the head-harness and hang the respirator from your two thumbs.
5. Lift the respirator up to the child's face, catch the chin part of the facepiece under the child's chin, and then stretch the harness over the child's head.
6. See that the respirator is straight on the child's face, that the chin fits snugly **into** the chin-part of the facepiece and that no part of the edge of the facepiece is turned in.
7. Fasten the hook and eye on the two bottom straps of the head-harness to secure the respirator in place.
8. Tell the child to **breathe out** strongly several times (to expel any gas that may have entered the facepiece while being adjusted) and then to breathe normally.

To put on the respirator alone, the child should follow the same procedure as above but it should be taught to **hold its breath at the start**, as the presence of gas might make it dangerous for the child to breathe in before the respirator is in place.

To remove the small child's respirator, unfasten the hook and eye at the back of head-harness and draw the respirator forward and downward off the face with the right hand, while the left hand supports the metal canister.

It is very important to introduce the respirator to young children in a manner most likely to win their interest and collaboration in wearing it. Mothers are, in general, the best judges of the method to be adopted. With most children its introduction as a play object is the best means of approach, and it is generally wise to introduce it to a small group of children together. In some cases a measure of firmness is required, but, whichever method is adopted, the aim should be to obtain ready obedience to wear the respirator in an emergency. If the child is antagonized, it may become actively resistant and so prevent the respirator being put on at all.

The liability of young children to attempt to remove the respirator if they become tired of wearing it must be recognized, and some simple form of restraint may be necessary where circumstances do not permit of the person in charge of a young child giving it close attention (such as when one adult is responsible for more than one child).

Care of Small Child's Respirator

1. **Never** carry or hang the respirator suspended from the head-harness.
2. The cardboard carton or container used for carrying the respirator should contain only the respirator and nothing else. Keep the container in good condition always.
3. Remove the respirator from its container at least once a week and put it in a safe place for a few hours so that the facepiece will regain its shape and not become permanently distorted.
4. Protect the respirator from moisture. Water will render it useless. Provide a waterproof case for the cardboard box or apply a coat of good paint to the latter.