

Know your hard hat

Shell – Deflects blows to the head. Replace a shell that shows signs of wear, scratches, gouges, or hairline cracks. Shells exposed to heat, sunlight, and chemicals can become stiff or brittle.

Peak – The peak should always face forward. Do not wear headwear backwards.

Foamliner – Provides protection for lateral or side impact.

Adjustable headband – Adjust the headband size so that headwear will stay on when bending over, but not so tight that it leaves a mark on the forehead.

Crown strap suspension – Acts as a shock absorber. Look closely for cracked or torn adjustment slots, frayed material, or other signs of wear.

Suspension lugs – Check the suspension lugs regularly. Long periods of normal use can damage the suspension. Perspiration and hair oils can speed up the deterioration of suspension materials.

Chin strap – Do not draw the chin strap over the brim or peak of the headwear.

Rain trough – Directs rain water to the front of the hat.

Earmuff accessory slots

Reflectors – Increases visibility. Required under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation for traffic control. Crane operators at a building site can see the strip on the top of the hat. *The reflective decals shown are available for order from WorkSafeBCstore.com. For more information, e-mail customer.service@worksafebcstore.com or phone 604 232-9704 (toll-free in B.C. at 1 866 319-9704).*



Dos

- Do inspect headwear before each use.
- Do replace headwear that has been struck, even if no damage is visible.
- Do clean the suspension and shell regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do remove and destroy any headwear if its protective abilities are in doubt.

Don'ts

- Don't transport headwear in rear windows of vehicles.
- Don't paint the plastic shell. Paint solvents can make the plastic brittle and more susceptible to cracks.
- Don't use winter liners that contain metal or electrically conductive material under Class G or E headwear.
- Don't put anything between the suspension and the shell.

Modified from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety web site at www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/ppe/headwear.html.