

MOLDEX FAQ'S ON HEARING PROTECTION

1. How can I assess my workplace for noise levels?

The purpose of assessing workplace noise is usually to determine if employee noise exposures exceed [OSHA's](#) PEL of 90 dBA – 8 hour time weighted average (TWA), which is equivalent to a steady noise of 90 dBA for eight hours. Higher levels are allowed, but for shorter periods. For example, 95 dB is allowed if the duration is four hours and 100 dB is allowed for two hours (provided that these overexposures are equally compensated with underexposures). OSHA also sets an action level of 85 dBA – 8 hour TWA. Exceeding this action level requires implementation of a comprehensive hearing conservation program. Two methods for monitoring are acceptable, which include area monitoring and personal monitoring. In area monitoring, a sound level meter (SLM) is used to determine the noise levels in various work areas. In personal monitoring, the exposure is read off a dosimeter worn by an employee. It is recommended that when a noise assessment is required, you contact a certified industrial hygienist.

2. Do Moldex® disposable foam earplugs contain natural rubber latex?

No. All Moldex® disposable foam earplugs are manufactured with an acrylic polymer material. This material is synthetic and does not contain the proteins found in natural rubber latex, which usually is the cause of a latex allergic reaction.

3. Can the PlugStation® be refilled once we run out of earplugs?

No, the dispenser is designed to be disposed of when empty. This promotes more hygienic dispensing of the product since many empty bottles would require cleaning when empty due to the dirty environments where they are located. The Moldex®PlugStation® is easy to replace and is a no worry solution.

4. Where can the Moldex® PlugStation®/One-Stop PlugShop® be placed?

The PlugStation® or One-Stop PlugShop® should be placed in:

- Easily accessible areas where workers frequent such as washroom, lunchroom, break room, tool crib/shed.
- Areas where hearing protection is needed.
- They should not be placed outside in direct exposure to the elements.

5. Can Moldex® foam earplugs be washed and/or reused?

Moldex® foam earplugs, including [SparkPlugs®](#), [Pura-Fit®](#), [Camo Plugs®](#), [Goin' Green®](#),

and

Softies® are all disposable foam earplugs and must be discarded once they are soiled/dirty. Disposable foam earplugs may not be washed or cleaned.

Depending on your environment and the employee's ear hygiene, disposable foam earplugs may need to be replaced at the end of each shift or possibly several times per day.

You will find the following links useful:

- OSHA Occupational noise exposure, OSHA 1910.95
- https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9735
- OSHA Noise & Hearing Conservation:
- <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/index.html>
- NIOSH Noise & Hearing Loss Prevention:
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/default.html>

We do manufacture reusable earplugs that may be washed and reused, please visit our website link below for additional information.

[Moldex® Reusable Earplugs](#)

6. Can Moldex® disposable foam earplugs be irritating in the ears?

If instructions on the packaging are followed (see below), our earplugs have been found to be nonirritating, tested to ISO 10993 Standard for Cytotoxicity and Primary Skin Irritation.

Ensure that your hands and fingers are clean prior to insertion and you insert earplugs in a non-contaminated area. Any contamination on your hands or fingers may transfer to the earplug and cause irritation.

If irritation, redness or discomfort occurs, discontinue use and consult a licensed health practitioner.

7. We are evaluating your Moldex [Metal Detectable Earplugs](#) models #6615 SparkPlugs and #6415 Rockets and wanted to know if you can suggest a setting for our metal detector or if you can supply us with additional information on the metal detectable parts in the earplugs?

There are wide ranges of metal detectors used in the food processing industry and many are designed or have custom features, which may also have individual adjustable settings to suit the needs of that particular user.

Since it is nearly impossible to predict the size or shape of a potential metal contaminant, we suggest that you adjust your metal detector's settings to at its highest possible sensitivity setting.

Below you will find detailed information on the metal contents of the Moldex #6615 Metal detectable SparkPlugs and the #6415 Metal detectable Rockets to assist you further.

For the Moldex #6615 Metal detectable SparkPlugs, we use a 2mm diameter chrome alloy steel ball which is 0.0372 grams. Some customers adjust the sensitivity of their detector system using a 1 cm long section of earplug cord(which is also made of a metal detectable material), and adjusting until they detect either the cord or the earplug.

For the Moldex #6415 Metal detectable Rockets, we use a type 302 stainless steel spring. It is 0.350 inches long has a 0.100 diameter, which weighs 0.1 grams. Some customers adjust the sensitivity of their detector system using a 1 cm long section of earplug cord (which is also made of a metal detectable material), and adjusting until they detect either the cord or the earplug.

8. Can your Moldex corded PlugStations models; 6880 with corded SparkPlugs (#6654) 6881 with corded metal detectable SparkPlugs (#6615) or your 6882 with corded PuraFit (#6900) be refilled?

Although you may be physically able to restock corded earplugs into the empty Moldex PlugStations, we **DO NOT** recommend it. Moldex Corded PlugStations come pre-filled and therefore designed for the user's convenience, to eliminate the cost and the time of refilling. Also, the PlugStation "Container Packaging" has been labeled as required by the EPA per ANSI Specs S3.19-1974 as well as with our specific lot number information per batch.

HERE TODAY. HEAR TOMORROW.

1. ROLL & COMPRESS. With clean hands, hold earplug between thumb and forefinger as shown. Roll and progressively compress the entire tapered end of the earplug to a small wrinkle-free cylinder.

2. INSERT PLUG. To ensure fitting, reach hand over head and gently pull ear upward and outward as shown. Insert compressed, tapered end of earplug well inside ear canal. Hold 30-60 seconds until earplug expands. Release, then push in again for 5 seconds to ensure fit.

3. CORRECT FIT. When properly inserted, the bottom edge of earplug is located at the opening of the ear canal.

4. INCORRECT FIT. A portion of the earplug not in the ear canal will reduce effectiveness.



FITTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISPOSABLE FOAM EARPLUGS

WARNING

1. Use these laboratory derived attenuation data for comparison purposes only. The amount of protection afforded in field use often is significantly lower depending upon how the protectors are fitted and worn.
2. Failure to follow all instructions could result in hearing loss or injury.
3. Failure to obtain a proper fit will reduce effectiveness of hearing protectors and could result in hearing loss or injury.
4. Over protection can be dangerous. The wearer must be able to hear warning signals.
5. Wearers with hearing loss should exercise extreme caution.
6. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that the type of hearing protector and its rating is appropriate for the user in their particular workplace.
7. Use caution when working around machinery or any other equipment to ensure neck cord does not become caught or entangled.
8. Failure to follow these warnings could result in serious injury or death.
9. Moldex earplugs must only be used as part of a hearing conservation program that complies with applicable local safety and health regulations.

For additional information, consult your Supervisor, read all information on box.
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