

6 OF THE BEST DUST MASKS



The Woodworker
BEST VALUE



The Woodworker
RECOMMENDED



There are many types of dust mask available, some better than others. When choosing one, make sure that it's CE approved. Disposable masks should be FFP2 rated and powered respirators TH1 rated. Dust masks used to be crude and inefficient, offering little real protection. Many of the current models are now far more sophisticated, with built-in valves and efficient seals. They're now known as respirators.

1 Trend Airshield Pro

Trend ☐ 0800 487363 ☐ www.trendmachinery.co.uk

This is the new version of the Trend Airshield, which is a powered respirator. It's been redesigned to increase filtration efficiency and improve comfort. It uses an 8-hour rechargeable Ni-Mh battery with an audible low-battery warning. The motor has been relocated to reduce noise, and you can wear it with ear defenders.

2 3M 9322 Respirator Mask

3M ☐ 0870 60 80060 ☐ www.3m.com

This is a disposable dust mask with a central exhalation valve. It's soft and folds flat, making it easy to store. It's made from polypropylene and has polyurethane foam around the nose clip. Well designed, it moulds easily to the face and is comfortable to wear. It forms a good seal and is generally pleasant to use.

3 Flexinet P2 Valved Dust Mask

Screwfix Direct ☐ 0500 414141 ☐ www.screwfix.com

This is a rigid dust mask, again with a central exhaust valve. It has a mesh outer covering for durability and a soft fabric liner around the inner edge. It has quite a large filter area, though its rigid shape makes it rather uncomfortable to wear and the upper edges are annoyingly close to the eyes.

4 Aircap 2

Bradwest Safety Co ☐ 0870 199 9125 ☐ www.bradwest.co.uk

This is a powered respirator mounted on a baseball cap. The separate battery pack, either disposable or rechargeable, is hung on a belt. The lightweight visor provides excellent visibility, though low impact protection. A pair of replaceable bayonet-mounted filters is fitted. The Aircap 2 is very light and comfortable to wear, even for long periods. Highly recommended.

5 Trend Air Ace

Trend ☐ 0800 487363 ☐ www.trendmachinery.co.uk

This rather unusual looking respirator has replaceable filters. The rubber face mask provides an excellent seal and the exhaust valve in the base prevents exhaled air from fogging goggles or glasses. A clip-on visor is available for added eye protection. It's supplied with two electrostatic filters; charcoal filters are also available for odorous environments. The Air Ace is comfortable to wear, with a large filter area. A good choice for the enthusiastic woodworker.

6 3M 7500 Halfmask Respirator

3M ☐ 0870 60 80060 ☐ www.3m.com

This is a versatile mask with a comfortable silicone facepiece and replaceable twin filters. A wide range of filters is available to provide protection against specific dusts and toxic vapours. This is an extremely comfortable mask to wear, with good airflow and no unpleasant rubber smell. It would be an ideal choice for anyone using spray finishes where specific filters must be used.