uvex

hearing protection guide

protecting people  uvex-safety.com
uvex Hearing Protection Guide
How to choose the correct hearing protection.

The appropriate form of hearing protection varies according to the wearer’s ear and the area of application. This guide contains information regarding noise and hearing protection.
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What actually is noise?

Noise is not only loud sounds which damage hearing; sounds perceived as disruptive and burdensome are also noise. For example, a clock ticking or a dripping tap may impair our concentration.
Effects of noise on hearing and the human body

Our hearing is on permanent standby. It can never take a break and cannot be "switched off". This means that our bodies are exposed to the full spectrum of noise every day. This might be noise at work, traffic noise or when attending a concert in our free time. Our hearing is under constant strain.

But it is not just our hearing that is affected. Noise also results in stress which affects the whole body. Subconsciously, noise affects the entire human organism. This can lead to headaches and gastrointestinal illnesses, or even high blood pressure and noise-induced hearing loss.
Noise-induced hearing loss

We are exposed to noise every day, which is damaging to our hearing. Hearing loss develops gradually and painlessly. Sensory hair cells in the cochlea are irreparably damaged over time. The first signs of hearing loss can often be noticed in noisy environments. Those with impaired hearing will find it difficult to properly follow conversations in such situations. They may need to ask for things to be repeated more often, they might constantly turn the radio up and they might find that telephone calls lead to misunderstandings. Social withdrawal is often an effect of hearing loss.
Adverse health effects of harmful noise

Listed below are the maximum periods of time a person should be exposed to harmful noise per day without wearing hearing protection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level (dB)</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>7.5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>4 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>1 minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>30 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protect your hearing!

Use uvex hearing protection to protect your hearing from the impact of harmful noise in the workplace.

Earplugs for every situation

It is essential to have effective acoustic insulation to protect hearing in noisy environments. With the right insulation, harmful or irritating noise can be isolated, while important alarm signals are still audible and speech perception is not adversely affected ſ you don’t feel isolated.

It’s all about the correct choice

- Wearing period
- Noise situation
- Precision fit (people with beards or glasses)
- Efficacy (insulating earpiece pads)
- Ease of use
- Compatibility with other PPE
- Individually adaptable hearing protection
What should you know about noise insulation with regard to ear plugs?

SNR is an abbreviation of single number rating. The SNR value represents the absorption figure of a product. The higher the SNR value of a hearing protection product, the higher the noise insulation provided.

What level of noise insulation is required?

To find out the absorption figure required, the noise situation of the workplace must first be established. For this, the professional association should measure noise emissions to determine the equivalent continuous noise level and, where appropriate, the maximum noise level reached. A noise register is established on the basis of this. Then, the appropriate hearing protection can be selected in accordance with the SNR method.
SNR method

**Noise level = absorption figure = residual noise level**

(SNR) of the relevant hearing protection

**Example:**

100 dB – 26 dB = 74 dB

The objective when choosing suitable hearing protection is to achieve an effective residual noise level of between 70 dB and 80 dB for the wearer.

If sound absorption is too high (over-protection), this can result in an inability to communicate and cause feelings of isolation.
Every ear is different

Ear canals vary in size and shape. This means an earplug which fits properly is required.

For this reason, uvex offers a number of forms of hearing protection, appropriate for the many different shapes and sizes of ear canals. Or you can even choose individually adapted otoplastic hearing protection.
Long wearing periods – comfort is key!

Comfort is essential if you rely on hearing protection at work for most of the day.

When we develop our products, we place great importance on ergonomics and optimal fit in the ear canal.

Individually adaptable otoplastic hearing protection offers maximum comfort.
Fitting and correct usage of disposable earplugs

Hearing protection must be inserted correctly in order to ensure the protective function. If protection is not used correctly, there will be minimal, if any, protective effect. Read the instructions for use carefully to make sure that the hearing protection is correctly fitted.

1. Briefly roll and compress the earplug
2. With one arm, reach over the head and pull the ear slightly upwards, so that the ear canal is straight. Place the earplug in the ear and hold it in place for a short time
3. Perfect fit
Fitting and correct usage of otoplastic hearing protection

An otoscopy is carried out to inspect the ear canal.

Next, an otoblock is inserted to protect the inner ear.

After this, silicone impression material is inserted slowly into the ear canal and the ear impression can be removed after a few minutes.
Hold the otoplastic device by its grip. The part which inserts into the ear should point downwards.

Position the otoplastic device at the entry to the ear canal. With your other hand, reach over your head and pull the ear slightly upwards.

Gently rotate the otoplastic device backward when inserting it into the ear canal.

Please make sure that the otoplastic device is inserted comfortably.
uvex disposable earplugs

- **uvex com4-fit**
  - SNR: 33 dB
  - Signal recognition: S, V, W, E

- **uvex x-fit**
  - SNR: 37 dB
  - Signal recognition: S, V, W, E

- **uvex xtra-fit**
  - SNR: 36 dB
  - Signal recognition: S, V, W, E

- **uvex hi-com**
  - SNR: 24 dB
  - Signal recognition: W

**Other products**

- with cord detectable
- with cord detectable
- with cord detectable
### uvex reusable earplugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Noise Reduction (dB)</th>
<th>Sizes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>uvex xact-fit 2124.001</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uvex whisper 2111.201</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>S, W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uvex whisper+ 2111.212</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>S, V, W, E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uvex whisper supreme 2111.235</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **detectable**
- **banded ear protectors**

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uvex earmuffs

**uvex K1**
- SNR: 28 dB
- Length adjustment
- Padded headband
- 2600.001

**uvex K2**
- SNR: 32 dB
- Length adjustment
- Padded headband
- Memory foam
- 2600.002

**uvex K3**
- SNR: 33 dB
- Length adjustment
- Padded headband
- Memory foam
- 2600.003
**uvex K200**
2600.200

- 28 dB
- Length adjustment
- Optimum fit
- 360° rotation
- Dielectric
- Option: compatible with bump cap

**uvex K1H**
2600.201

- 27 dB
- Length adjustment
- Standby and resting positions
- Optimal helmet-visor combination

**uvex K2H**
2600.202

- 30 dB
- Length adjustment
- Standby and resting positions
- Optimal helmet-visor combination
- A variant compatible with the uvex pheos helmet is available
uvex tailor-made hearing protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>uvex high-fit DC</th>
<th>uvex high-fit flex</th>
<th>uvex high-fit temp flex</th>
<th>uvex high-fit duro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 dB</td>
<td>23 dB</td>
<td>24 dB</td>
<td>24 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 dB</td>
<td>26 dB</td>
<td>28 dB</td>
<td>28 dB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signal recognition

| 24 dB: W         | 23 dB: –           | 24 dB: –               | 24 dB: –           |
| detectable       | detectable         |                         |                     |
uvex high-fit flex com

uvex high-fit flex for Impulse

uvex ILC

Can be adapted to the uvex ILC and etyBlu communication units

uvex etyBlu

23 dB
26 dB

28 dB

23 dB: W
26 dB: S, W, V, E
detectable

28 dB: S, W
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