

# TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

## Looking Into PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR



Everyone knows that protecting your eyes is vital. OSHA, state regulatory agencies, insurance companies, and labor unions all make protecting workers and their eyes a top priority. Until recently protective eyewear wasn't very fashionable - and that may have been one of the drawbacks to wearing them, especially for young people.

Well, that's all changed now. Thanks to TV shows like *American*

*Chopper*, *Overhaulin'*, *American Hot Rod*, *This Old House*, and other reality shows whose influential role models are demonstrating that you can protect your eyes and still look "cool." They each have their advantages and disadvantages. But, again until recently, they weren't very attractive - some would say that safety glasses were just plain ugly. Now manufacturers like Pyramex, MSA, North, Uvex, Crews, Jackson Safety and AOSafety all produce stylish and functional eyewear protection. Branded eyewear like Orange County Choppers and Harley Davidson are extremely popular with young people, reflecting the overall popularity of the brands, coming in a variety of lens and frame colors and shapes.

Protective eyewear has traditionally come in three types: Glass, plastic, and polycarbonate lenses. All three types of safety glasses meet or exceed the requirements for protecting your eyes. Prices range from a couple of dollars all the way up to \$20 or \$30 apiece.

### GLASS LENSES

- Are not easily scratched
- Can be used around harsh chemicals
- Can be made in corrective prescriptions
- Are sometimes heavy and uncomfortable

### PLASTIC LENSES

- Are lightweight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Are not likely to fog
- Are not as scratch-resistant as glass

### POLYCARBONATE LENSES

- Are lightweight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Are not likely to fog
- Are stronger than glass and plastic
- Are more impact resistant than glass or plastic
- Are not as scratch resistant as glass

Regardless of the type, style, "cool" factor, or price safety glasses are essential. Whether you're using tools, working on projects, or observing others in the work area or shop, safety glasses are always required. So now you have no excuse - safety glasses now come in a wide variety of fashionable choices. With a large variety of lens and frame colors, as well as shapes and styles to choose from, students can now look "cool" and still protect their eyes.

