

Take **5**ive Safety Gram

Use your head – take care of your hard hat!

Is it time for a new hard hat? There is a common misconception that hard hats last forever. OSHA does not specify the service life of a hard hat, nor is there any standard expiration time frame for hard hats. The hard hat life span varies depending on its use and the conditions under which it's worn. As a general guideline, most hard hat manufacturers recommend replacing them every five years regardless of outside appearance.

If you work under extreme conditions such as exposure to high temperatures, chemicals or long periods in sunlight, hard hats should be replaced after two years of use. In addition, some manufacturers even recommend replacing the suspension in your hard hat every 12 months. Since the main purpose of a hard hat is to protect your head, it's important for you to inspect and replace hard hats on a regular basis.



ES&H Section Head,
Nancy Grossman

Here are some tips when it comes to wearing hard hats.

- Wear it** Hard hats can't do their job if they are not worn.
- Inspect it** Inspect your hard hat before you wear it. Make sure there are no cracks, dents or tears.
- Maintain it** Clean the hat and suspension with soap and water. Store your hard hat in a cool place away from direct sunlight.
- Replace it** Hard hats are designed to protect you only once. If your hard hat has been damaged, replace it.
- Recycle it** Hard hats can be recycled in the recycling bins around the lab.

All hard hats should be ANSI-Z89, 1-approved. Any stickers placed on hard hats should follow OSHA recommendations, which states they should be positioned three-quarters of an inch from edge and small enough that they can't hide damage to the hat. For more information on hard hats, talk to your supervisor or senior safety officer.



White Hat Stock Number:
2650 150100. EA. \$10.31



Yellow Hat Stock Number:
2650 150200. EA. \$10.31

Hard hats are a stock item at Fermilab

They can be ordered online at:

<https://fermi.service-now.com/navpage.do>

Log on using your services username and password, click stock catalog, and enter the stock number.