STEADLEAF PRESS

MEND / DENIM & DURABLE CLOTHING

Decide When Damaged Workwear Is No Longer Protective

Protective or uncertain? Stop and refer

Required protection or uncertain purpose
Do not rely on appearance or home repairs.

Damage, incident, contamination or unknown history
Remove from protective service by the approved procedure.

Missing label, altered fit or unauthorized repair
Refer to the responsible safety contact.

Confirmed ordinary non-protective clothing only
No hazardous contamination; assess ordinary repair separately.

No checklist outcome authorizes protective use.

Recognize reasons to remove damaged protective workwear from service and record the next authorized action, without attempting a home safety repair.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

This is an exclusion and referral guide, not a repair procedure, inspection certification or pass/fail standard. A garment may look intact yet have lost protection. If protective workwear is damaged, contaminated, involved in an incident or of uncertain history, stop relying on it and follow the workplace and manufacturer procedure. Never expose yourself to a hazard to check whether the garment works. Only ordinary non-protective clothing can be considered for the home textile repairs in the other guides.

Materials

Garment identification, manufacturer instructions, workplace hazard and PPE procedure, accessible records, and a pencil. Record information from a safe place; do not handle contaminated clothing or inspect it outside the prescribed procedure. Use suitable replacement PPE before resuming hazardous tasks.

Plan the repair

First distinguish ordinary clothing from clothing selected for protection. Consider the actual workplace hazard and the specified PPE, not just its appearance or marketing name. Damage, contamination, missing identification, unknown history, failed closures, altered fit or an incident may require isolation and authorized assessment. Follow trained removal and segregation procedures; never bring potentially hazardous contamination into a home. A qualified responsible party must determine disposition using manufacturer instructions and applicable rules. Even an apparently undamaged garment is not cleared by this checklist. See OSHA general industry PPE rule 29 CFR 1910.132(e) (United States), https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132, and CCOHS contamination and decontamination guidance, https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/ppe/personal-protective-equipment-contamination-and-decontamination.html (accessed November 25, 2026). Local requirements may differ.

Steps 1–2

1. Step away from exposure

If the garment may no longer protect you, stop the hazardous task and reach a safe place using the trained procedure. Do not remove protection while still exposed. Notify the responsible workplace contact.

2. Establish the intended use

Check the task and the hazard assessment. Is this ordinary clothing, or is it selected to protect against heat, flame, chemicals, cuts, visibility hazards or another identified risk? Unknown means do not rely on it.

Steps 3–4

3. Identify the exact garment

Record model, manufacturer, applicable label information and any service-life information already available. Do not guess the rating from fabric thickness, colour or appearance.

4. Read the responsible instructions

Locate the manufacturer instructions and workplace PPE procedure for inspection, maintenance, authorized repair and retirement. Follow the stricter applicable requirements; ask the responsible safety contact if unclear.

Steps 5–6

5. Check incident history

Record known exposure, fire or heat event, chemical contact, snag, impact, prior unauthorized repair or other event that may compromise protection. Do not conduct a reenactment or test exposure.

6. Treat contamination separately

If hazardous contamination is suspected, avoid touching or carrying the garment beyond the approved procedure. Follow trained doffing, segregation and decontamination arrangements. Never wash it at home.

Steps 7–8

7. Observe only if safe

Where authorized and safe, record visible holes, tears, thinning, broken stitching, damage to reflective material or coatings and altered closures. Do not scrape, stretch, burn, wet or puncture the garment to investigate.

8. Record fit and coverage concerns

Note reported loss of coverage, damaged fasteners or restricted movement from normal use; do not perform a wearing trial with suspect PPE. Poor fit may also compromise protection.

Steps 9–10

9. Flag uncertain information

Record unreadable labels, unknown cleaning history, missing instructions and undocumented repairs. Unknown is a referral trigger, not evidence of safety.

10. Separate from usable equipment

Follow the established workplace process to identify the item as unavailable for protective use and prevent reissue. Do not attach a tag in a way that damages the garment or spreads contamination.

Steps 11–12

11. Request authorized disposition

Provide the facts to the responsible safety contact or manufacturer. Ask whether the approved route is inspection, specialist maintenance, authorized repair, or replacement and disposal. Do not make that determination at home.

12. Do not improvise a mend

Do not apply household thread, adhesive, patches, coatings or other alterations to restore PPE. An approved repair procedure may be product-specific and require qualified personnel.

Steps 13–14

13. Arrange suitable replacement

Use only the specified suitable PPE provided or approved through the workplace process. Do not return to a hazardous task in suspect equipment while awaiting an answer.

14. Record the actual decision

Record the responsible person, date, disposition and any documented authorization before return to protective service. If no authorization exists, keep the item out of protective use. Do not repurpose contaminated gear.

Fix, care and preserve

The hole looks small

Size alone does not establish the protective performance of a garment. Remove damaged PPE from service and seek authorized disposition.

The label is missing

Do not infer protection from appearance. Request identification and assessment through the responsible workplace procedure.

A household patch looks strong

A neat repair is not proof of protection. Do not use a home repair as clearance; follow the approved route.

Contamination is suspected

Do not take the item home or handle it outside the prescribed procedure. Consult the responsible safety contact for segregation and disposal.

Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Exclusion checklist: if protection is required or uncertain, never use a home repair as clearance. Any known or suspected damage, incident, contamination, unknown identity, unauthorized alteration or fit concern triggers removal from protective use and referral. No checklist outcome authorizes use.

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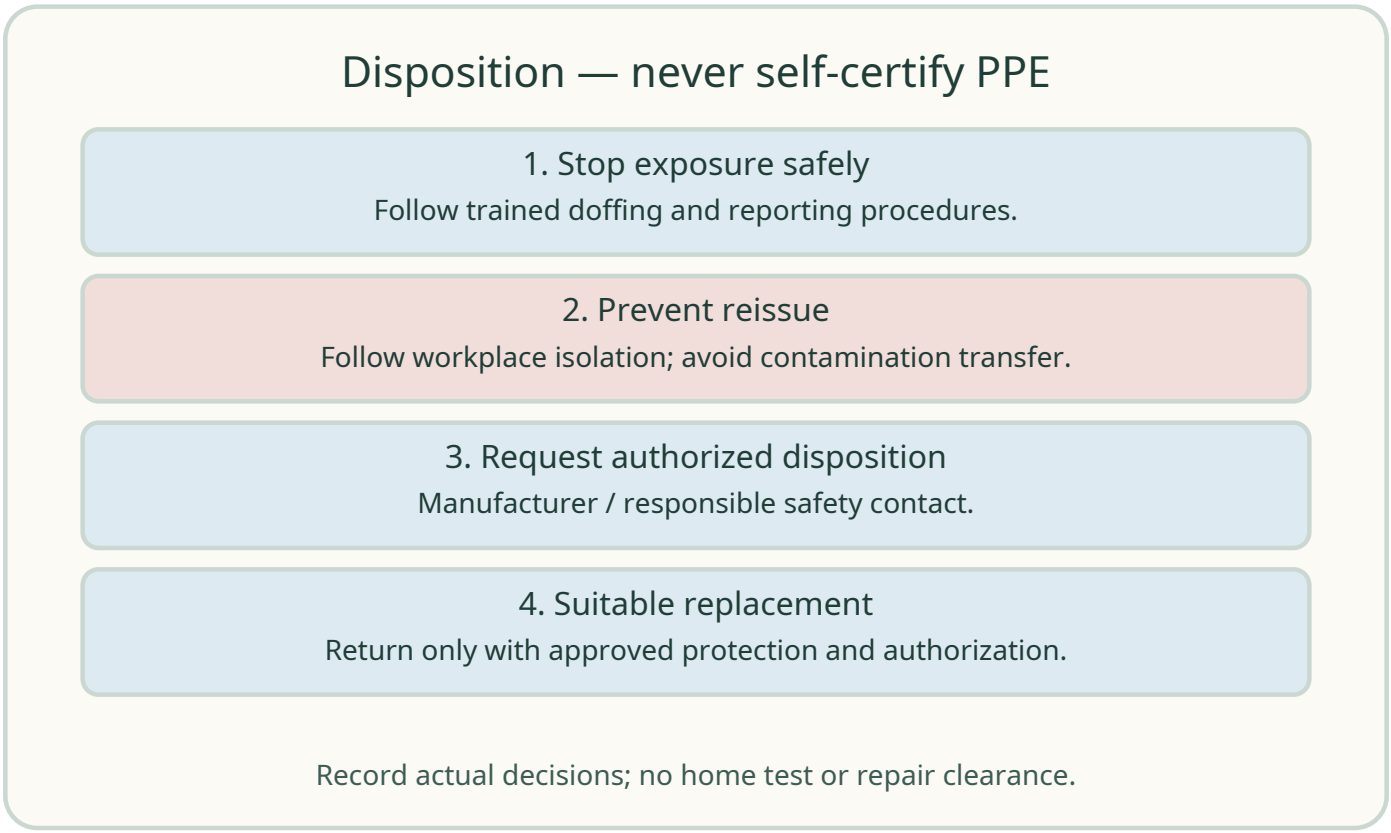
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Pattern 2

Disposition map: stop exposure using the trained procedure; prevent reissue; report known facts without unsafe handling; obtain an authorized decision and suitable replacement. A confirmed ordinary non-protective garment with no hazardous contamination can be assessed for ordinary repair separately. An apparently intact PPE item still requires the prescribed inspection.



Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Garment ID / model / manufacturer

Task and protective purpose

Label and instructions available?

Incident / exposure history

Visible concerns if safely observed

Contamination suspected / unknown?

Authorized workplace contact

Isolation and replacement arrangement

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Date / responsible person

Documented manufacturer guidance

Authorized disposition / reference

Replacement PPE arrangement

Return-to-service authorization or none

Contamination handling per procedure

Unresolved issues / do not use

Follow-up date