

Personal Protective Equipment vs. Engineering Controls

To help you determine what kind of equipment would best suit the needs of your business, please review the *Pros and Cons of Engineering Controls and PPE* chart, and the *Hierarchy of Controls Flowchart*, below.

Engineering Equipment	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once it is installed, it can be left in place for a long period of time. Does not require monitoring to ensure it is properly used. Can easily protect large groups of people. Employees don't have to interact with it. Creates a physical barrier between the worker and the hazard. Typically does not require any specialized training for employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be challenging to install and remove. More expensive up-front costs. Can be challenging to find anchor points. Is not easily adaptable to multiple situations.
Examples: permanent guardrails, skylight covers, horizontal lifeline systems, etc.	
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick to install and remove. Typically lower up-front costs. Easier to find anchorage points. Easily adaptable to multiple situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has to be installed every day. Requires monitoring to ensure that it is properly used. More expensive to utilize long-term. Can only protect one person at a time. Employees often object to wearing or using it. Workers can still come in contact with the hazard. Requires specialized training for workers.
Examples: fall protection harnesses, lanyards, anchor points, etc.	

* *Engineering controls are typically more effective at protecting employees than personal protective equipment (PPE).*

