

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, which shares some information about cloth and disposable face masks.

Cloth Face Masks

Cloth face masks are made from materials such as cotton. They are designed to be washed and reused. They can easily be bought in shops, online or even made at home. Cost can vary but is usually between £1 and £16. People often choose a cloth face mask in a pattern, colour or design of their choice. The government recommends cloth face masks be used for general use e.g. worn in public places or at home, if there is a risk of a member of your household being infected. This is to protect others and reduce transmission. Cloth face masks are not categorised as PPE (personal protective equipment).

Disposable Face Masks

Disposable face masks are designed to be thrown away after use. They are made from polypropylene (a thermoplastic) and tend to be blue and rectangular with elastic ear straps and a built-in nose wire. A disposable face mask is often required to be worn if you visit a hospital. These surgical masks are designed to be worn in medical settings, so have to be manufactured to a recognised standard. When worn in a medical setting, they are classed as PPE but not if they are worn for general use. Basic disposable masks cost around 45p each and are recommended for single use.



What are the differences between a cloth face mask and a disposable face mask?

