

# Useful Information About Latex Masks



---

## Out of the Box

Because of the unique flexible properties of latex, your mask may have lines or look warped when removed from the box. Take the mask from the box and lay it out to allow it to reshape. If your mask shows creases, stuff with tissue paper and very gently warm on low heat with a blow dryer. While mask is warm, straighten out any creases or folds. Leave paper in mask until it is completely cool.

One of the best investments to preserve the life of your mask is a styrofoam wig stand. This stand allows the mask to retain its natural shape and form when storing. It will also help get the mask into the proper shape.

---

## Adjustments and Alterations

Enlarging the view slits (eye cuts) is very easy to do. All you need to do is get a sharp pair of small scissors and trim the view slits a small amount at a time until you can see perfectly out of the mask.

Masks are designed for one size fits all. As a result, some people are going to receive a mask that is too big and some a mask is too small. To fit your mask, place it on your head until the mask eye holes line up with your eyes and you can see clearly. If the mask has places where it is sagging, it will have to be filled in. If the mask is stretched too tight then it will have to be adjusted.

If the mask is slightly too large in forehead area, the crown area [top] or the back of the head, add a filler of your choice (foam, saran wrap, or even wadded up shopping bags). Continue to fill the mask till it is totally smooth all around the top and back of the head area and the eye holes line up perfectly.

If the mask is too large in the area(s) around the eye sockets, the eyebrows, the cheekbones or the jaw a more detailed method should be used. Obtain from the local fabric or craft store a small sheet of soft foam rubber or unused sponges will also work. Trim the foam or sponge into small pieces. Turn the mask inside out and glue the pieces inside the mask using spirit gum or rubber cement. The gum/cement will not harm the mask - give it overnight to dry and try the mask on again. Continue to add more padding as necessary. If there is any area of the mask that is rubbing you can also add padding to that area.

If the mask is too tight consider a slit up the back of the mask. This can be done with very sharp scissors. Be very careful not to tear the mask. Make small cuts 1/2 inch at a time. You can use Velcro dots and Velcro strips to tighten and hold the cut mask in place. Make sure to put a Velcro dot at the top of the cut area to keep the mask from tearing. You can also use a hold punch and make a hole that will stop the cut line from running.

Masks can become hot inside. You may want to add some additional foam in areas around the neck, jaw line or behind the ears to increase air flow. Or remove the mask periodically. Keep some Kleenex tucked in your costume to wipe up any excess moisture.

---

## Wearing and Cleaning

When wearing a mask with traditional eye cuts , I recommend applying dark makeup around your eyes.

After wearing, you **MUST** clean your mask on both the outside and inside. Use a soft damp cloth with a mild soapy water. Gently wipe down the entire mask and follow with a clear water wipe to remove any soap residue. Finally dry with a soft cloth and allow to air dry completely. When dry, you can lightly dust with corn starch or baby powder inside to help keep the mask dry and flexible. Make sure not to get powder in the masks hair.

NEVER allow your mask to come in contact with any petroleum or oil based product, including Vaseline, oil based make up, oil based face cream, cleaning solvent, Armor All, shoe polish or saddle soap.

Once your mask is properly cleaned, time for storing. As previously suggested a Styrofoam wig stand provides the best support for you mask to retain its shape. Without the Styrofoam stand, turn the mask outside in and stuff the mask with either plastic shopping bags or non colored tissue paper. Latex is sensitive to dust, sunlight and temperature. Cover you mask in plastic, seal tightly and place in an area that is out of direct sunlight, is dry and cool. This will help prevent dry rot.