

SAFETY SENSE

Protect Yourself During Home Improvements Projects

(NAPSA)—A growing number of do-it-yourselfers are taking the job of protecting their safety seriously.

Experts say most machines and chemicals used in household projects and yard work can represent a health hazard if not used properly.

Many recommend homeowners who do virtually any task—ranging from painting the garage to mowing the lawn—take advantage of products on the market geared towards making people safer.

According to experts at AOSafety®—a leading manufacturer of safety products and sponsor of the National AOSafety® month every June—there are a few simple steps homeowners can take to protect themselves while doing household projects:

- **Cover your ears.** Common household machines such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers and power tools can generate sound loud enough to damage hearing. If noise is loud enough that users need to raise their voices to be heard at distances of three feet or less, they may be taking unnecessary risks. Regular and proper use of earplugs or protective equipment such as the AOSafety® Worktunes™ can help prevent hearing damage. The product serves as a hearing protector (with a noise reduction rating of 25 decibels) and portable AM/FM stereo radio all-in-one.

- **Keep your vision clear.** Nearly one million people in the U.S. have lost some degree of sight due to an eye injury. In 90 percent of the cases, the injuries



Most eye and ear injuries sustained during home improvement activities can be prevented with the use of personal safety protection.

could have been avoided or reduced in severity if proper eyewear was worn. Homeowners can protect their eyes by wearing protective eyewear that is both stylish and comfortable.

- **Breathe a little easier.** Common household products such as paint and garden pesticides can damage lungs and respiratory systems. As a general rule, if homeowners can smell or taste the substance they are working with, they probably need respiratory protection. Homeowners who regularly and properly use safety products including masks and filters can stop dangerous fumes from reaching their lungs.

For more information on safety products, visit your local hardware or home improvement center, or go to www.aosafety.com.