

CriticalPoint recommended that masks for reuse be stored in new plastic “sandwich” bags after use, but were informed by several participants that the CDC recommendations for the use of masks or respirators during a pandemic suggests that masks for reuse should be stored in paper bags that are clean and breathable to reduce the potential for microbial growth.

Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html> for more information.

It is acceptable to purchase brown paper lunch bags in bulk providing they are new and unused, but these bags may not be reused. Store unused bags in a plastic bag or bin. Subsequently, CriticalPoint is officially amending its mask and respirator reuse storage instructions as follows:

- Label masks or respirators on the outside
- Doff masks without touching the inside
- Place the doffed mask for reuse into a new paper bag
- Place the user’s initial on the outside of the paper bag so each user can find his or her mask again
- Store all the bags with masks in a bin on the dirty side of the anteroom
- When the respirator is sought for reuse, remove it from the bag and don it without touching the inside of the mask or respirator
- Discard the bag that it had been stored in
- A new bag must be used each time it is stored