

3M 311-1251

3M E-A-Rsoft Yellow Neons 311-1251 Corded Earplugs Instruction Manual

Model: 311-1251

1. INTRODUCTION

The 3M E-A-Rsoft Yellow Neons 311-1251 Corded Earplugs are designed to provide effective hearing protection in noisy environments. These disposable earplugs feature soft, slow-recovery foam that seals the ear canal for excellent noise reduction. The corded design allows for convenient short-term storage around the neck when not in use.

2. IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

For industrial/occupational use only. Not for consumer sale or use.

Please read and understand all instructions and warnings before using this product. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury, sickness, or property damage.

- The Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) may overestimate the hearing protection provided during typical use. 3M recommends reducing the NRR by 50% for estimating the amount of noise reduction provided.
- Misuse of 3M industrial and occupational products may result in injury, sickness, death, or property damage.
- Always select and use this product in compliance with applicable health and safety regulations and standards (e.g., U.S. OSHA, ANSI), as well as all product literature, user instructions, warnings, and other limitations.
- Consult your on-site safety professional, industrial hygienist, or other subject matter expert for product selection and use guidance.

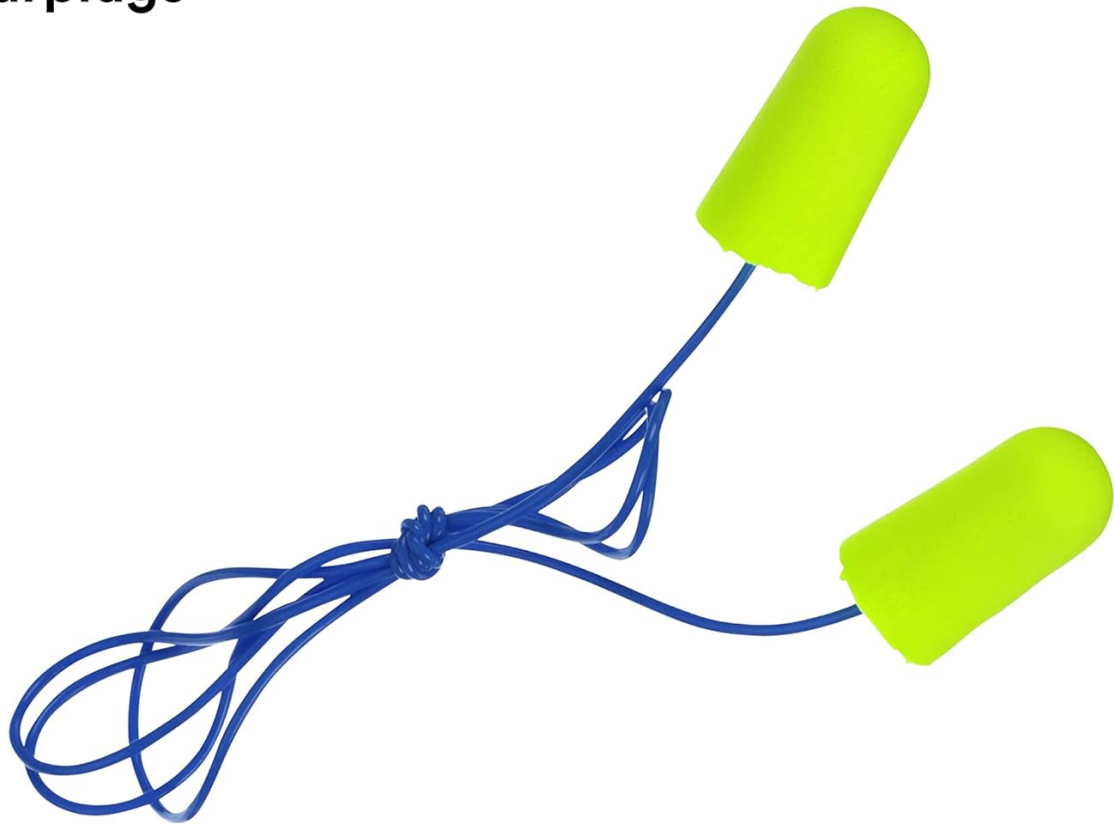
3. PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Noise Reduction Rating (NRR):** 33 dB. CSA Class AL.

- **Material:** Soft, slow-recovery polyurethane foam for comfortable insertion and secure fit.
- **Design:** Tapered cylinder shape for easy roll-down and insertion.
- **Size:** Slightly longer than regular E-A-Rsoft earplugs to fit deeper into the ear canal, potentially offering higher noise reduction.
- **Corded:** Features a vinyl cord for easy short-term storage around the neck and to prevent loss.
- **Visibility:** Neon yellow coloring enhances visibility, aiding supervisors in confirming worker safety compliance.
- **Compatibility:** Test compatible with the 3M E-A-Rfit Validation System for accurate quantitative assessment of hearing protection.

3M™ E-A-Rsoft™ Yellow Neons™

Earplugs



**Disposable
Earplugs**



Corded



**NRR
33 dB***



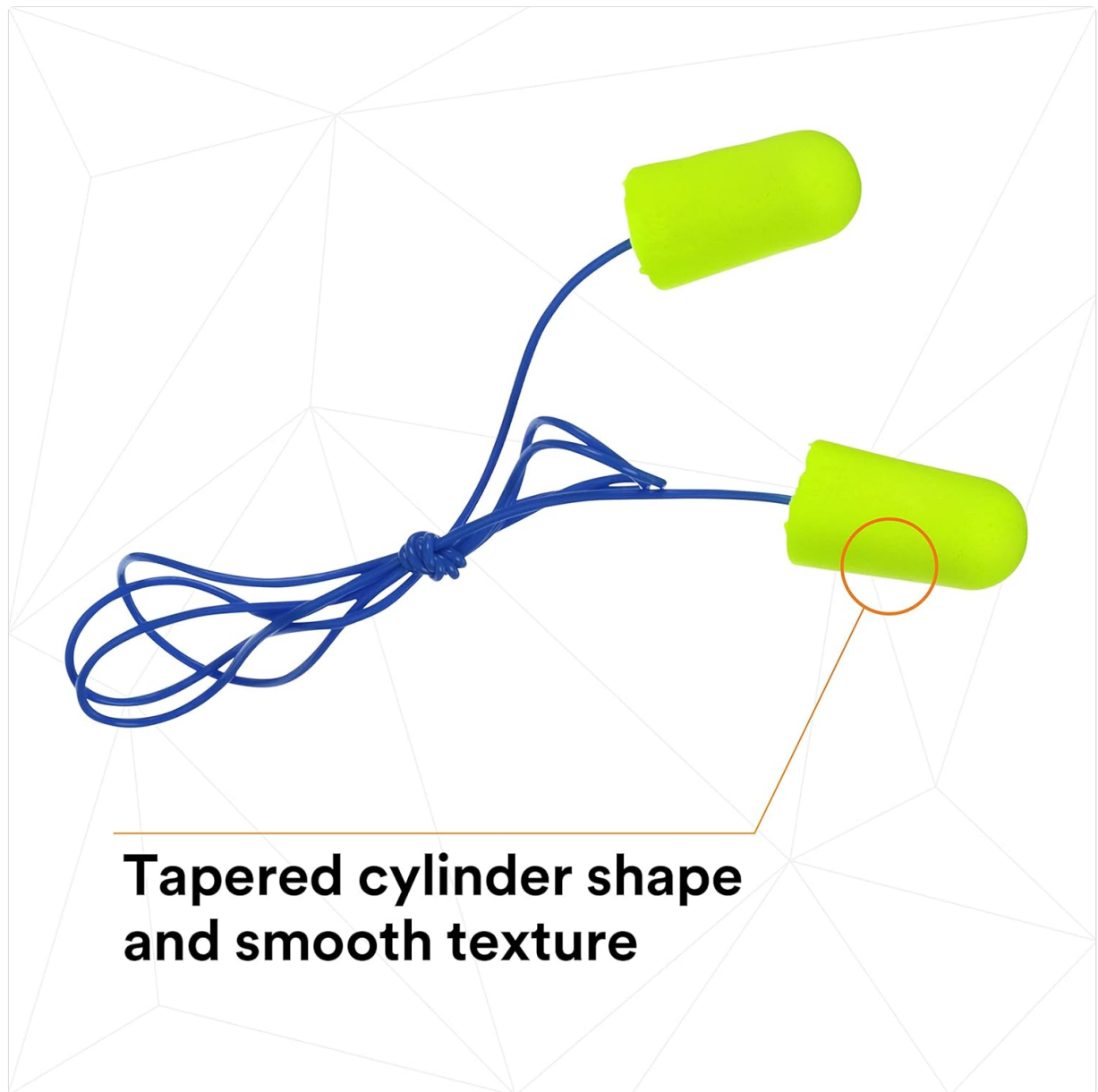
**Poly
Bag**



**Large
Size**

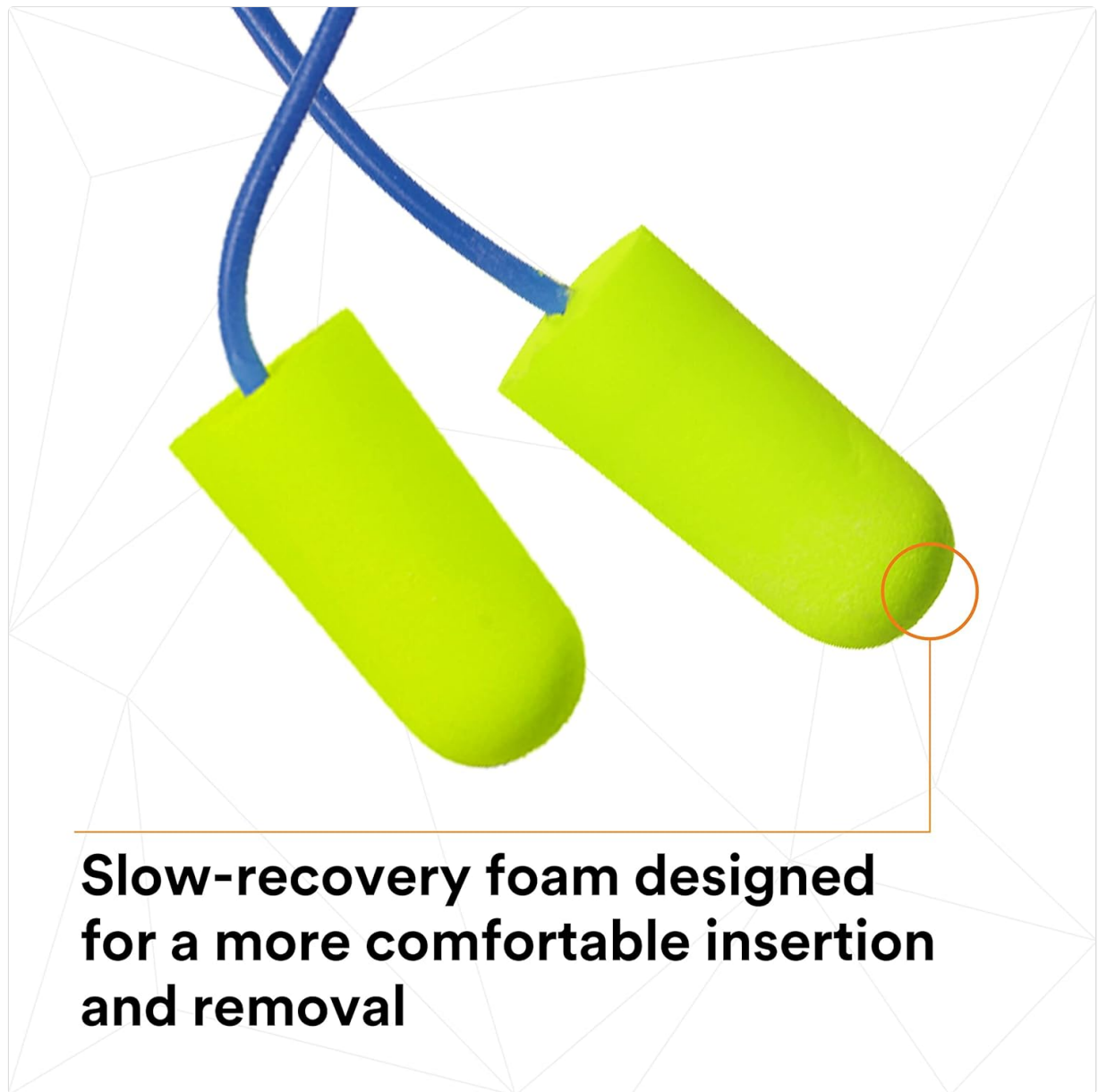
*U.S. EPA specifies the NRR as the measure of hearing protector noise reduction. However, 3M makes no warranties as to the suitability of the NRR for this purpose. 3M strongly recommends personal fit testing of hearing protectors. Research suggests that users may receive less noise reduction than indicated by the attenuation label value(s) on the packaging due to variation in fit, fitting skill, and motivation of the user. Refer to applicable regulations or guidance on how to adjust attenuation label values. It is recommended that the NRR be reduced by 50% to better estimate typical protection.

Image: Overview of 3M E-A-Rsoft Yellow Neons Earplugs, highlighting features such as disposable, corded, NRR 33 dB, poly bag packaging, and large size.



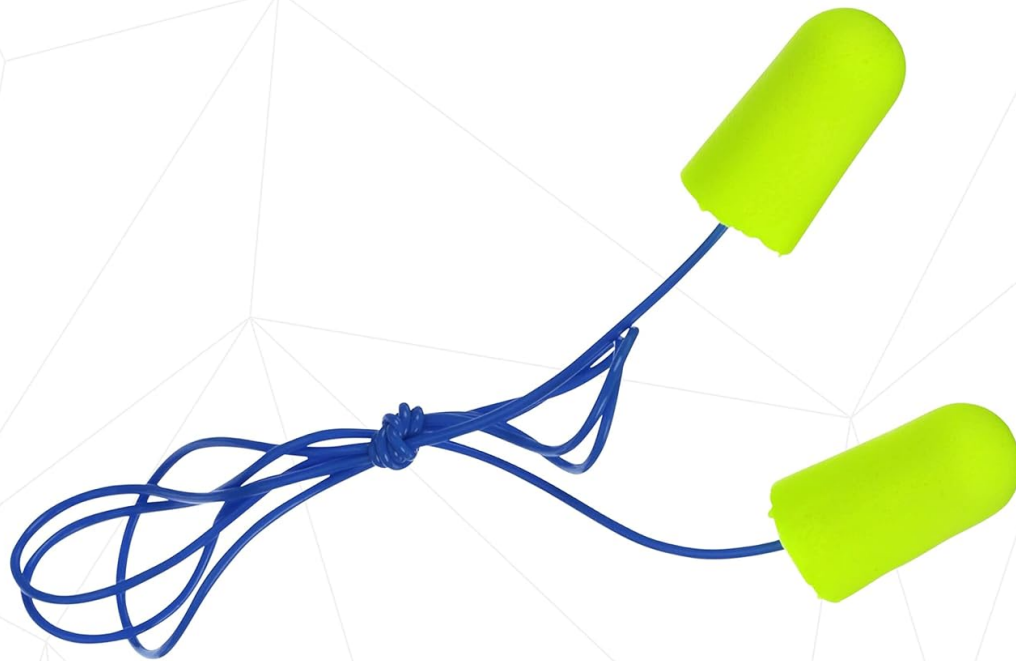
Tapered cylinder shape and smooth texture

Image: Detail showing the tapered cylinder shape and smooth texture of the earplug, designed for comfortable insertion.



Slow-recovery foam designed for a more comfortable insertion and removal

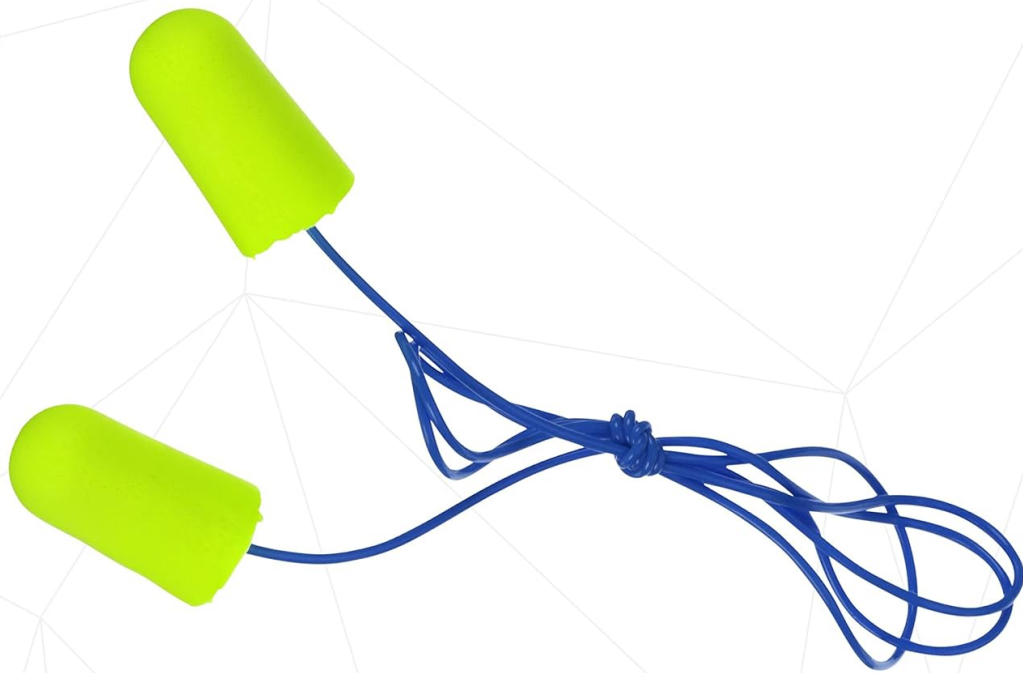
Image: Close-up of the slow-recovery foam, indicating its design for comfortable insertion and removal from the ear canal.



Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) 33 dB*

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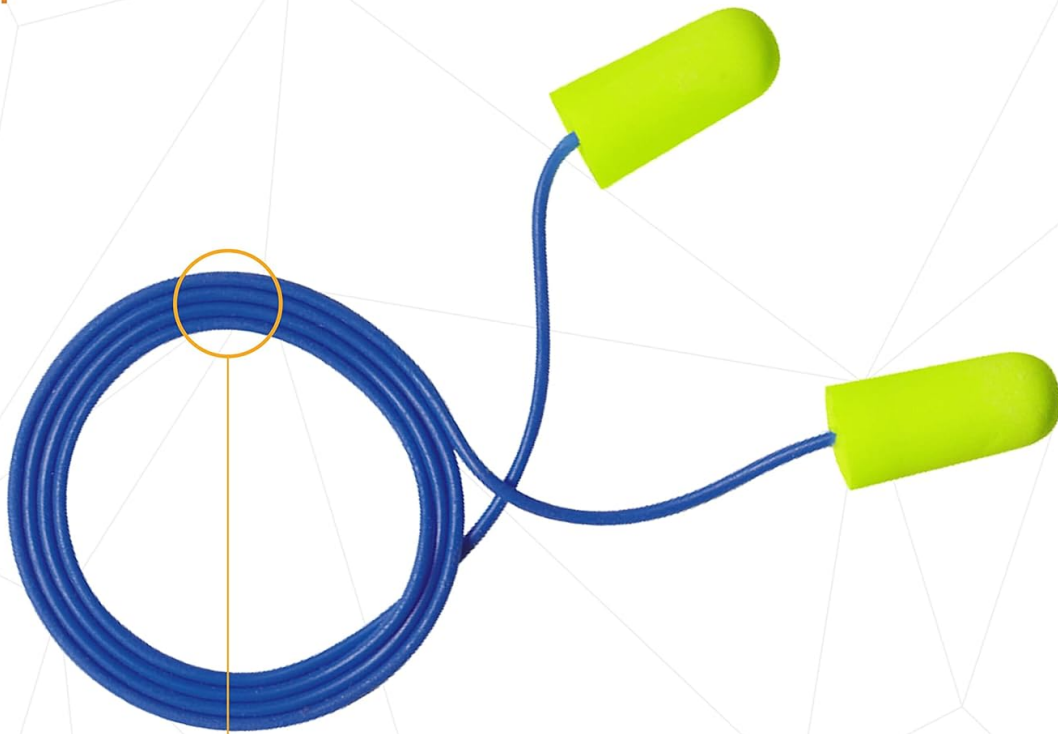
Image: The earplugs with a callout emphasizing their Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of 33 dB.



Neon coloring makes it easier for supervisors and inspectors to confirm worker safety compliance

Image: The neon yellow color of the earplugs, indicating it aids supervisors and inspectors in confirming worker safety compliance.

Cord Type - Vinyl



Corded for easy short term storage around the neck

Image: The earplugs featuring a vinyl cord, designed for easy short-term storage around the neck.

Compatible with the 3M™ E-A-Rfit™ Dual-Ear Validation System



Provides an accurate quantitative assessment of how much noise reduction a hearing protector provides to an individual worker

Image: A laptop screen showing the 3M E-A-Rfit Dual-Ear Validation System, indicating compatibility for assessing noise reduction.

4. HOW TO USE YOUR 3M E-A-Rsoft EARPLUGS (INSERTION & REMOVAL)

Proper insertion is crucial for achieving the stated noise reduction. Follow these steps carefully:

1. **Roll Down:** Slowly roll and compress the foam earplug into a very thin, crease-free cylinder.
2. **Insert:** While compressed, insert the earplug well into the ear canal. For easier fitting, reach around the head to pull the ear outward and upward during insertion.
3. **Expand:** Hold the earplug in place until it fully expands and you feel a secure seal. This may take a few seconds.
4. **Removal:** To remove, gently twist the plug to break the seal and slowly pull it out. Do not remove abruptly.







PROTECTOR TYPE	DESCRIPTION	HOW TO USE	CARE & CLEANING
Foam Plugs 	<p>Foam plugs, made from expandable slow-recovery foam, provide the best combination of comfort and protection for most users. They must be properly prepared for insertion. One size fits most. Once in the ear, foam plugs expand to provide a snug and secure custom fit. The two most common complaints about foam plugs ("not enough protection," and "they don't stay in") are almost always solved by greater practice and care in insertion.</p>	 <p>Slowly roll and compress foam plugs into a very thin crease-free cylinder. While compressed, insert plug well into the ear canal. Fitting is easier if you reach around the head to pull the ear outward and upward during insertion.</p>	 <p>Keep the plugs clean and free from material that can irritate the ear canal. They may be washed in mild liquid detergent and warm water. Squeeze excess water from the plugs and allow to fully air dry. Washing may be repeated several times. Discard plugs if they noticeably change their firmness or do not re-expand to their original size and shape.</p>
Premolded Plugs 	<p>Premolded plugs are made from flexible materials that are preformed to fit the ear. They are generally available with a joining cord to prevent loss. Although the version pictured at the left is a one-sized product, many premolded plugs are sold in two or more sizes and must be individually sized for each ear. If after a period of regular wear you've been unable to get used to your earplugs, try another size, type, or brand of hearing protector.</p>	 <p>Reach around the back of your head and pull outward and upward on the ear while inserting the plug until you feel it sealing. This may seem tight at first, especially if you've never worn earplugs. Carefully twist the plug to break the seal for a slow, safe removal.</p>	 <p>Premolded plugs will normally last several months or more depending upon the type, and environmental factors. They should be replaced if they shrink or swell, harden or soften, tear, crack, or become permanently deformed. Wash them in warm soapy water and rinse well. When dry, store them in a carrying case.</p>

Image: A diagram illustrating the proper method for inserting foam earplugs by rolling them into a cylinder and inserting into the ear canal, and instructions for care and cleaning.

5. OPERATING GUIDELINES

These earplugs are suitable for various industrial and occupational applications where noise exposure is a concern. Recommended applications include, but are not limited to: assembly and mechanical work, chipping, chiseling, cleaning, drilling, furnace operations, grinding, heavy equipment operations, machining, metal repair, painting, pouring/casting, power fastening, riveting, sanding, sawing, and welding.

For optimal performance and hygiene, use for a maximum of 4 hours at a time. Remember that the NRR should be reduced by 50% for a more realistic estimate of noise reduction in typical use.

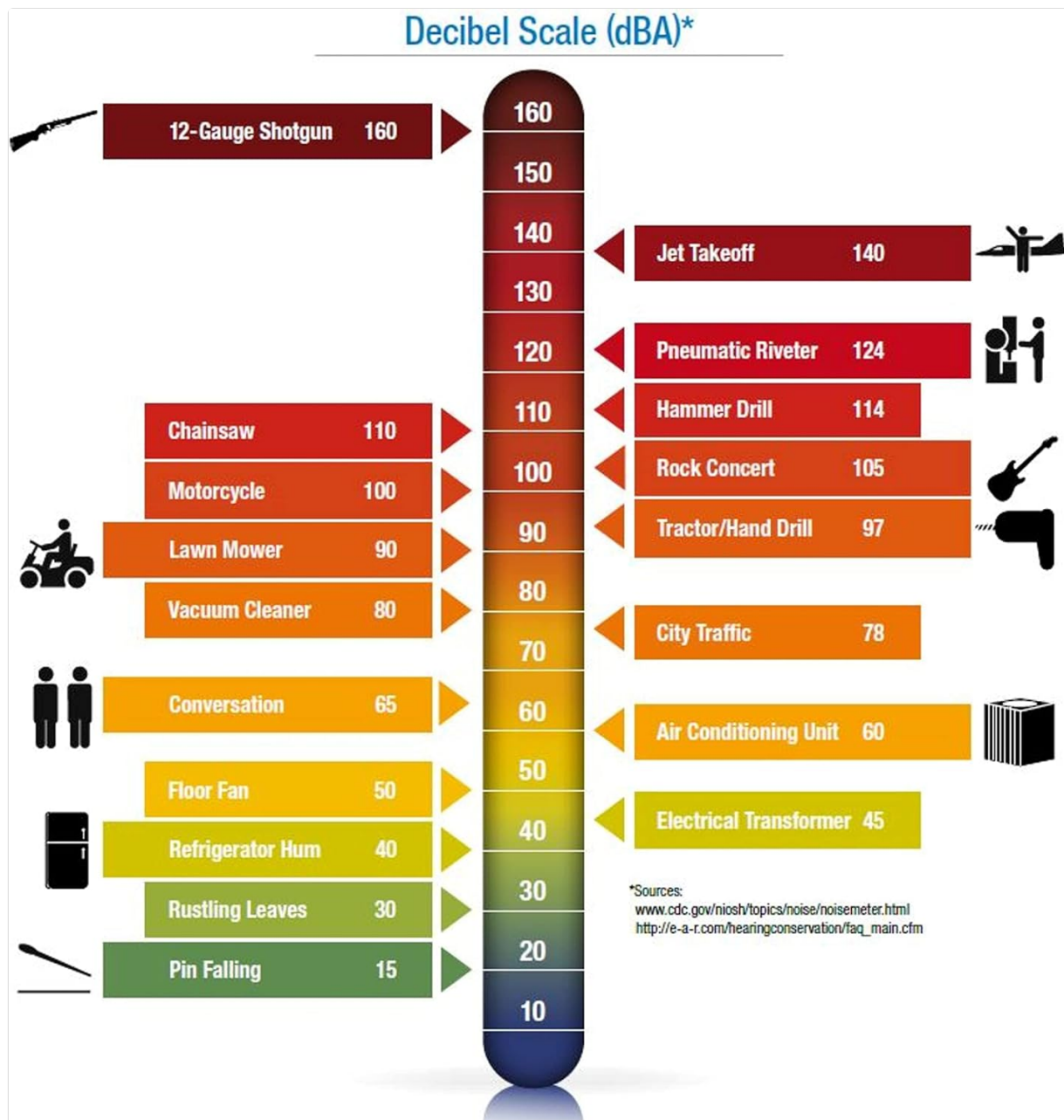


Image: A Decibel Scale chart illustrating the noise levels of various common sounds, from pin dropping (15 dBA) to a 12-gauge shotgun (160 dBA), providing context for hearing protection needs.

6. CARE AND CLEANING

To maintain hygiene and effectiveness, follow these care instructions:

- Clean the earplugs after each use.
- Store earplugs in a clean, dry place when not in use. The poly bag packaging helps keep them clean prior to use.
- To clean, wash in mild liquid detergent and warm water. Squeeze out excess water and allow to fully air dry.
- Replace earplugs if they noticeably change their firmness, no longer re-expand to their original size and shape, or become permanently deformed.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Earplugs not fitting securely:** Ensure you have rolled the earplug into a sufficiently thin cylinder

before insertion. Pulling the outer ear up and back during insertion can help open the ear canal for a deeper fit. Hold the earplug in place longer to allow full expansion.

- **Insufficient noise reduction:** Check for proper fit. If the earplugs are not fully expanded or seated correctly, noise reduction will be compromised. Re-insert following the instructions. If the issue persists, the earplugs may be damaged or worn, requiring replacement.
- **Discomfort during use:** Ensure the earplugs are not inserted too forcefully. The slow-recovery foam should expand gently. If discomfort persists, ensure the earplugs are clean and undamaged. If discomfort continues, discontinue use and consult a safety professional.

8. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Detail
Model Number	311-1251
Noise Reduction Rating (NRR)	33 dB
Material	Polyurethane Foam
Color	Yellow
Type	Corded, Disposable
Size	Large
Product Dimensions	24.4 x 19.7 x 16.3 inches (packaging)
Manufacturer	3M

3M™ E-A-Rsoft™ Yellow Neons™ Earplugs

• Category



Disposable
Foam Earplugs



Push-to-Fit
Earplugs



Reusable
Earplugs

• Metal detectable



Yes



No

• Type



Corded



Uncorded

• NRR



NRR 33 dB*

• Packaging



Poly
bag



Rapid release
dispensing box



One Touch™
refill bottle



Pillow
pack

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Image: A chart outlining the characteristics of 3M E-A-Rsoft Yellow Neons Earplugs, including category (Disposable Foam Earplugs), metal detectability (No), type (Corded), NRR (33 dB), and packaging (Poly bag).

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

3M products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information, product support, or additional technical details, please visit the official 3M website or contact 3M customer service. For additional product information, visit www.3M.com.