

IP RATINGS

What Does an AED's "IP" Rating Mean?

Every AED has an "IP Code" which can usually be found in the AED brochure or user's manual. The "IP Code" stands for "International Protection Rating" or "Ingress Protection Rating" which classifies the level of protection that electrical appliances (like AEDs) provide against the intrusion of solid objects or dust, accidental contact, and water. To be clear it has NOTHING to do with how well a particular device can withstand a drop or shock. The code is expressed as IPXX with "X" being numbers.

Example, "IP" Rating of 55:

- The first numerical digit indicates the level of protection against solid particles such as dust, dirt or other matter.

First Number	Effective Against
0	No protection against contact and ingress of objects
1	Any large surface of the body, such as the back of a hand, but no protection against deliberate contact with a body part
2	Fingers or similar objects
3	Tools, thick wires, etc.
4	Most wires, screws, etc.
5	Dust protected--Ingress of dust is not entirely prevented, but it must not enter in sufficient quantity to interfere with the satisfactory operation of the equipment
6	Dust tight--No ingress of dust; complete protection against contact

- The second numerical digit indicates the level of protection from harmful ingress of water.

Second Number	Effective Against
0	Not protected
1	Dripping water
2	Dripping water when tilted up to 15 degrees
3	Spraying water
4	Splashing water
5	Water jets
6	Powerful water jets
7	Immersion up to 1 meter
8	Immersion beyond 1 meter

The higher the value of each number the higher the resistance to these contaminants. AEDs with lower values are more likely intended for use in offices, schools, churches and similar "carpeted areas." AEDs with higher numerical "IP" ratings are designed for use anywhere, but especially in environments where dust and moisture could be prevalent.