

Choosing The Right Glove

Choosing the right glove is essential in protecting the wearer from the many risks they see and the ones they don't.

When selecting proper hand protection it is important to choose the right type of glove for each specific task or application, since no one glove protects against all hazards.

Important Points To Consider

- Type of task
- Anticipated exposure and duration of contact
- Type of glove material
- Glove thickness and length
- Level of dexterity required
- Proper sizing

Testing Consideration

- Complies with US FDA and MDD 93/42/EEC Directives
- Chemical Permeation Resistance (EN 374 or ASTM F739)
- Permeation Resistance to Chemotherapy Drugs (ASTM D6978)
- Resistance to Viral Penetration (ASTM F1671)

Polymer		Latex ⁽¹⁾	Nitrile	Chloroprene
Material Properties		Natural rubber latex from the <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> rubber tree	Synthetic co-polymer Acrylonitrile butadiene	Synthetic co-polymer 2-Chlorobuta-1, 3-diene (also known as neoprene)
Level of Barrier Protection		Excellent	Good	Excellent
Strength		Excellent	Good	Good
Elasticity		Excellent	Fair	Good
Extended Comfort and Fit		Excellent	Fair	Excellent
Durability		Excellent	Good	Excellent
Resistance to Chemicals * Limited service NR — Not Recommended	Solvents	Poor / NR	Fair*	Good
	Oils	Poor / NR	Good	Very Good
	Alcohols	Good	Good	Very Good
	Acids	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
	Chemo	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Potential Wearer Reactions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant Contact Dermatitis • Chemical Allergies • Latex Protein Allergies (Type 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant Contact Dermatitis • Chemical Allergies (Type 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant Contact Dermatitis • Chemical Allergies (Type 4)
Recommended Exposure		Low to Medium Risk	Low to High Risk	Medium to High Risk
Recommended Uses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Medical Services • Law Enforcement • Janitorial • Maintenance • Automotive • Tattoo • Salon / Hairdresser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital / Clinics • Dental • Emergency Medical Services • Law Enforcement • Food Prep / Processing • Maintenance • Automotive / Auto Body • Janitorial • Laboratory • Tattoo • Salon / Hairdresser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital / Clinics • Dental • Emergency Medical Services • Food Prep / Processing • Automotive / Auto Body • Janitorial • Laboratory • Chemical Manufacturing • Material Handling

⁽¹⁾ Safe use of latex gloves by latex-sensitized individuals has not been established

STEPS to Choosing the Right Glove

Not every glove is the right glove. In fact, you may need several different gloves for multiple tasks. Follow these four steps to find the Right Glove for you.

Step 1 — Choose the Glove Material

Glove material is a critical component of the selection process because not all glove materials are the same — each has its own unique performance attributes that should be matched to the specific hazard or task.

Step 2 — Choose Glove Thickness and Length

Typically the thicker the glove material the better the level of protection, however, as the glove thickness increases the level of dexterity decreases so it's important to choose the correct thickness for the task and anticipated exposure. Three critical stress areas should be considered when choosing thickness — the finger, palm, and cuff. Each area should be of adequate thickness to prevent chemical permeation, punctures or tears while providing the dexterity required for the task.

Choosing a glove length is as important as the choice of material. The length of the glove will dictate the range of protection against incidental and intentional exposures. Most disposable gloves are available in two lengths; a standard 9" (240 mm) cuff and an extended 11" (285 mm) cuff for greater forearm coverage. The standard cuff covers up to the wrist and is suitable for tasks where no intended direct contact with a hazardous substance is expected above the wrist area. The longer extended cuff is indicated for tasks where a potential for splashing or immersion above the wrist area is anticipated.

Step 3 — Identify the Level of Dexterity Required

For tasks that require high degree of dexterity or for use within a wet or oily environment, a good grip is essential to prevent slipping and dropping that can cause injury to the worker or product. While gloves with a textured finish may have adequate grip, it is not entirely the textured finish that provides the grip but the external surface treatment applied by the manufacturer. For this reason, an evaluation of several types of gloves may be necessary to match the required grip to the environment and task.

Step 4 — Select the Correct Size

In order to provide the best level of protection the glove has to fit correctly and be comfortable to wear. Studies show that glove compliance increases significantly when the glove is comfortable and doesn't interfere with dexterity. Gloves that are too large will slide on the hand decreasing protection and dexterity and ones too snug will affect dexterity and comfort, lowering wearer compliance.

Disposable gloves are primarily supplied in two size and fit configurations; ambidextrous and sized hand specific:

- Ambidextrous gloves fit either hand and supplied in generic sizes, typically x-small through xx-large. Ambidextrous gloves are suitable for tasks that require minimal dexterity, precision or control
- Sized Hand Specific are hand specific (right and left) and available in half sizes 5.0 – 9.0 for a closer, more comfortable fit. Hand specific gloves are ideal for tasks that require precision and a higher degree of dexterity such as surgical procedures or for extended periods of wear

The information is provided for general information only and cannot be relied on for specific advice or recommendations. Please consult your institutional policies for glove selection and use.

HOW Do I Know If I Am Adequately Protected?

The US, Europe, Canada and other countries recognize disposable gloves as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and are regulated when exposure to blood and other potentially infectious body fluids, microorganisms and hazardous chemicals may be anticipated. The first step to your protection is to ensure that the glove you choose complies with the respective regulatory requirements for the country of use. Ask your glove manufacturer or supplier to provide the appropriate certification of compliance for each glove product.

If gloves will be worn while working with chemicals or chemotherapy drugs, specific testing should be conducted by an independent, accredited laboratory using international testing standards and the test results available to you. The following are recognized consensus standards for measuring the level of protection for gloves against specific chemicals, drugs and microorganisms that have been developed by ASTM International and BSI and are widely used to determine suitability for use.

Chemical | EN 374-3, ASTM F739, ASTM D6978

Biological | EN 455-3, ASTM F1671

Remember, glove selection is specific to the task and the glove resistance to the chemical or drug tested. If using chemical mixtures or tasks where multiple hazards are present, you may need to wear gloves that provide the highest chemical resistance or wear a combination of different gloves to receive adequate protection.

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