



9635 S. Franklin Drive • Franklin, WI 53132

GENERAL INFORMATION ON GLOVES

HOW GLOVES ARE MADE:

Gloves are created by dipping forms (which look like hands) in vats of liquid. The latex glove then hardens on the mold – it is formed with what will ultimately be the inside of the glove (touching your skin) on the outside of the mold. Then the gloves, still on the mold, go through one or more rinses to leach out protein and residual chemical (better rinsing equals less residual). Finally, the finished product is stripped off the mold, packaged, and sterilized.

IMPORTANCE OF GLOVES:

Gloves offer barrier protection both for the health care worker and the patient to guard against contact with blood, other body fluids, and microorganisms.

HOW GLOVES SHOULD FIT:

Gloves need to be comfortable. One should be able to don it (slip one's hand into it) easily, and then be able to perform the procedure as if you weren't even wearing a glove at all.

LATEX GLOVES:

Latex is a natural product. Rubber trees produce the milky liquid. Most of the world's natural rubber trees are found in tropical countries such as Malaysia. The tree bark can be shaved so that the latex bleeds and it is then collected.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Natural rubber material
- Barrier against blood, body fluids, microorganisms
- Use against bases, alcohols and diluted water solutions
- Snug fit and great dexterity
- Poor versus oils and greases
- May cause allergic reactions

THREE TYPES OF ALLERGIC REACTIONS:

- IRRITANT DERMATITIS – This is skin irritation that does not involve the body's immune response. It is not an allergic response. Some causes include: frequent hand washing and inadequate drying, aggressive scrubbing technique or detergents, mechanical abrasive effect of glove powder, climatic irritation and emotional stress.
- DELAYED CUTANEOUS HYPERSENSITIVITY – This is contact (hand) dermatitis generally due to the chemicals used in latex glove production. The skin reaction is typically seen 6-48 hours after contact. The reaction is local and limited to the skin that has contacted the glove.
- IMMEDIATE REACTION – These are systemic allergic reactions caused by circulating antibodies to the proteins in natural latex. Symptoms include hives, asthma due to bronchoconstriction and in severe cases anaphylaxis. Symptoms occur soon after exposure to latex (within about 30 minutes).



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VINYL GLOVES:

Glove choice should be appropriate to the situation. One should consider wearing vinyl gloves when the superior barrier protection of latex is not needed. So, for example, a very short procedure with minimal prospect for blood or body fluid contact might be one for which a vinyl glove could be considered an acceptable choice.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Man made synthetic material
- Barrier against blood, body fluids, microorganisms but not for lengthy procedures
- Low cost

NITRILE GLOVES:

Nitrile gloves are manufactured using synthetic latex, contain no latex proteins, and are three times more puncture resistant than natural rubber. Nitrile gloves offer superior resistance to punctures and abrasions and are also used for protection against a variety of chemicals. Nitrile material also has a naturally low coefficient of friction, making them easy to don (put on).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Man made synthetic material
- Barrier against blood, body fluids, microorganisms
- No protein allergen
- Good chemical resistance
- High puncture resistance
- Solvent resistant

GLOVE STORAGE:

Medical gloves should not be stored under conditions of excess heat or light.

MEDICAL GRADE:

For Medical Use. Highest grade of protection. These gloves are thoroughly tested to pass FDA requirements and exceed a broad range of demanding specifications.

GLOVE POWDER:

We use a pharmaceutical grade cornstarch-based powder called Absorbo.