INTEGRITY™
CLEANROOM PRODUCTION SOLUTIONS

GLOVE GUIDE

It is recommended that you select gloves from the category that **best matches the activity that your employees will be undertaking for the majority of their working day.** Another consideration to make is the type of environment that exists in the workplace.

Cleanroom gloves are **designed to protect products from contamination or the wearer from exposure to chemicals.** When the main reason for wearing the gloves is established, there are other glove characteristics to be considered – the required tactility, dexterity, antistatic materials etc.

A few questons to ask when choosing the right glove:

1. Are chemical hazards present?
2. Are abrasions and punctures from sharp objects a problem?
3. Is a secure grip vital to the application?
4. Is dexterity important?
5. Which characteristic is more important: protection or dexterity?
6. Are the gloves properly sized for individual workers?

Published Standards

EN (ISO) 374 Protective gloves against dangerous chemicals and micro-organisms -
consists of the following:

- BS EN ISO 374-1:2016 Terminology and performance requirements for chemical risks.
- BS EN 374-2:2014 Determination of resistance to penetration.
- BS EN 374-4:2013 Determination of resistance to degradation by chemicals.
- BS EN ISO 374-5:2016 Terminology and performance requirements for micro-organisms risks.
- BS EN 16523-1:2015 Determination of material resistance to permeation by chemicals. Permeation by liquid chemical under conditions of continuous contact.

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LATEX

Latex gloves are a popular choice for those in **medical or food industries as they offer the most effective protection against body fluids, viruses and bacteria.** They are also **affordable, durable and dexterous.**

However, they don't offer any real protection against solvents, therefore **if chemical resistance is important, nitrile would be a better choice.**

NITRILE

Nitrile gloves are often referred to as **'medical grade'** and are the **superior glove when it comes to puncture resistance.** Due to their synthetic construction, they can also provide up to **3 times more protection against punctures and tears** compared to latex gloves, as well as being **more flexible and dexterous.**

Nitrile is similar to latex in feel, fit and durability, but is **more resistant to solvents, chemicals, oils and fats, making them ideal for the chemical industry, laboratories and medical applications.** Nitrile gloves are also a popular choice in automotive applications as they **have the ability to tolerate higher temperatures than latex.**

VINYL

Vinyl gloves offer **limited protection against chemical or biomedical exposure,** therefore, they are commonly **used in non-hazardous and low-infection environments,** such as the food industry and situations where durability and protection is less of a priority.

However, it's important to note that **while vinyl gloves comply with EC 1935/2004 and European Regulation 10/2011, they should not be used when handling fatty foods,** as the oils can leak out the softening agents into the food, causing the glove to become brittle.

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HEAT REISTANT

Heat Resistant Gloves provide protection against high temperatures in ESD safe areas and cleanroom environments. They allow workers to operate safely while protecting themselves when coming into contact with dangerously hot surfaces.

These gloves, however, are less dexterous and use up more storage space than other gloves. While they protect from heat, these gloves are not recommended for use when working with chemicals.

HALF FINGER LINER

Half Finger Liners help to reduce perspiration and limit skin irritation caused by contact with glove material such as latex and PVC.

While the half finger allows for complex finger-work, it leaves the wearer vulnerable to chemicals and hazardous objects, such as those with sharp/abrasive surfaces.

FULL FINGER LINER

Similar to the half fingers, the Full Finger Liners help reduce perspiration and skin irritation. The full coverings means they can be worn to prevent fingerprints on circuit boards, lenses, optics and other critical surfaces.

The main disadvantage, however, is that they leave the wearer less dexterous than those using the half finger liners, meaning complex tasks are harder to complete.