

# Work Gloves & Chemical Products

English version



Occupational Risk Prevention  
For Workers

**présanse**

PRÉVENTION ET SANTÉ AU TRAVAIL

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR-CORSE

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT GLOVES: DISPOSABLE OR REUSABLE

## Hands: valuable but fragile

- ▶ To protect yourself and limit risks, it is essential to use gloves that are suitable and resistant.
- ▶ For certain tasks, wearing protective sleeves may also be necessary.
- ▶ CE marking (Conformité Européenne - Compliance with Requirements) is mandatory.

## Risks

Chemical products in contact with the skin can cause serious and irreversible damage:

- ▶ Redness, burns
- ▶ Cracks, chapping
- ▶ Eczema, hives
- ▶ Abrasion
- ▶ Skin cancer

Any exposure to chemical products involves a risk of penetration into the body through the skin. This chemical penetration can affect the liver, kidneys, nervous system, etc.



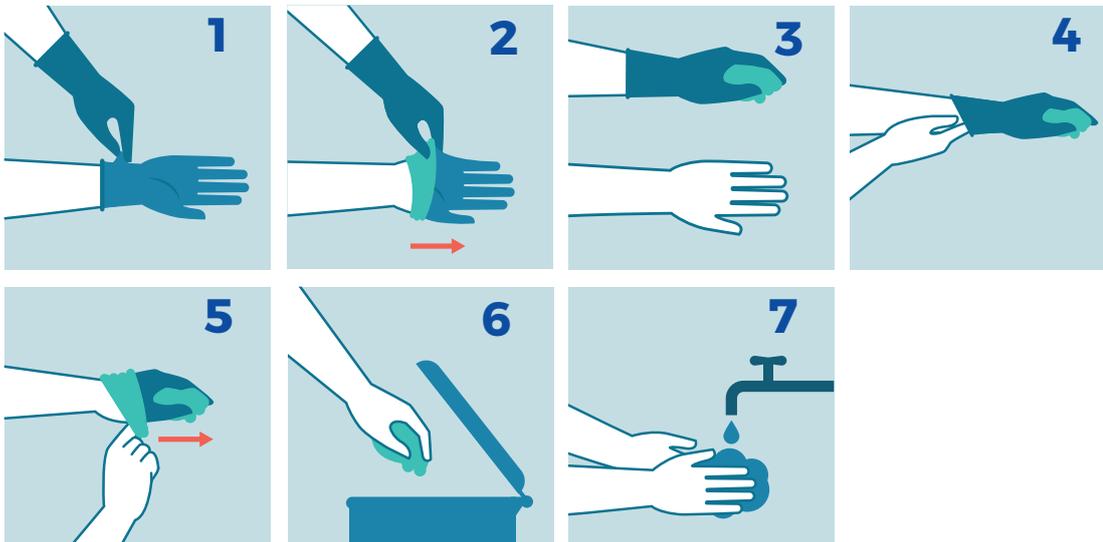
## PRACTICAL ADVICE

Before starting a task, the worker should ask themselves:

- ▶ What risk am I exposed to?
- ▶ For how long?
- ▶ What are the constraints of the position (dexterity, sensitivity, temperature, etc.)?
- ▶ What glove size do I need?

They should also take time to read the glove information leaflet.

**If the glove is contaminated, remove it as shown in the illustrations.**



# DIFFERENT MATERIALS

Choose the glove that best protects hands from identified hazards, and always read the manufacturer's safety data sheets.

NAME	MATERIAL TYPE	ADVANTAGES	INCONVÉNIENTS
Latex	Natural or synthetic elastomer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Flexibility, durability, comfort, and good fit.</li> <li>❖ Good grip.</li> <li>❖ Resistance to cuts and punctures.</li> <li>❖ Low cost.</li> <li>❖ Very high elasticity.</li> <li>❖ Available as disposable gloves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Risk of allergic reaction to natural rubber.</li> <li>❖ Poor resistance to flames, hydrocarbons, and organic solvents.</li> </ul>
Neoprene	Synthetic elastomer (polychloroprene)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Good resistance to acids and bases.</li> <li>❖ Good cut and abrasion resistance.</li> <li>❖ High flame and heat resistance.</li> <li>❖ Durable.</li> <li>❖ Available as disposable gloves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Moderate chemical resistance (oils, petroleum).</li> <li>❖ Moderate mechanical resistance.</li> <li>❖ No resistance to aromatic or chlorinated solvents.</li> </ul>
Nitrile	Synthetic elastomer (acrylonitrile butadiene)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ High elasticity.</li> <li>❖ Resistant to cuts, punctures, and tears.</li> <li>❖ High resistance to oils, fuels, and certain organic solvents.</li> <li>❖ Available as disposable gloves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Low flame resistance.</li> <li>❖ Reduced grip when wet.</li> <li>❖ Poor resistance to ketones and halogenated products (e.g., chlorine, fluorine).</li> </ul>
Butyl	Synthetic elastomer (polyisoprene-isobutylene)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ High resistance to oxidation and corrosive chemicals (oils and solvents).</li> <li>❖ Low gas permeability.</li> <li>❖ Good heat resistance.</li> <li>❖ Good flexibility and resistance to tension and tearing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Poor resistance to hydrocarbons.</li> <li>❖ High cost.</li> </ul>
Polyurethane	Thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic polymer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Resistant to tension, punctures, abrasion, and tearing.</li> <li>❖ Good resistance to certain organic solvents, oxidation, and oil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Poor heat resistance.</li> </ul>
Multilayer materials	Multilayer laminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Excellent resistance to most chemicals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Poor dexterity.</li> <li>❖ Low mechanical strength.</li> </ul>
Fluorinated materials	Synthetic materials (e.g., Viton®, Teflon®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Good resistance to many substances including benzene and chlorinated chemical derivatives (PCBs), except ketones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Low resistance to cuts and abrasion.</li> <li>❖ High cost.</li> </ul>
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Good resistance to acids, bases, alcohols.</li> <li>❖ Moderate cost.</li> <li>❖ Available as disposable gloves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Poor resistance to ketones, aldehydes, aromatic hydrocarbons.</li> </ul>

## USAGE TIPS

- ▶ Don't share or borrow gloves: sharing gloves increases the risk of infection.
- ▶ Check for premature aging or wear.
- ▶ Put gloves on clean, dry hands.
- ▶ Change disposable gloves as soon as they contact chemicals.
- ▶ Avoid contact between gloves and other parts of the body: do not smoke, eat, or drink with gloves on, and do not wipe them on work clothes.
- ▶ Care: wash gloves according to the manufacturer's instructions—do not machine wash.
- ▶ Wash hands with soap and water after glove removal to avoid post-contact contamination.
- ▶ After use, dispose of gloves in containers appropriate for the associated risk.

Source : INRS

**Gloves are not a miracle solution against hand injuries. They are just one element of a comprehensive prevention approach.**

**Golden rule: No material is permanently impermeable to chemical substances.**

### LEARN MORE

For any questions, contact your occupational physician or the multidisciplinary team of your Occupational Health and Prevention Service.

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AU TRAVAIL

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