



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

# QuickTips

Developed by AIHA  
in support of the OSHA Alliance



An OSHA Cooperative Program

## For Job Health and Safety on Lab Glove Selection

### *What to do today to protect worker health and prevent health hazards*

#### **What is the hazard?**

- Skin exposure to chemicals handled, cryogenics or heat/flame
- Skin damage due to cuts, punctures or abrasions

#### **How do I know there is a hazard?**

- Consult Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) after identifying chemicals
- Refer to chemical manufactures label for proper handling of product and related health concerns
- Wear thermal gloves for work with cryogenics gases and dry ice.
- Wear cut resistant gloves for work with broken glass and other sharps.
- Wear disposable gloves for work with blood borne pathogens and biologicals

#### **Why should I care?**

- Contact with chemicals can irritate, stain, burn and corrode the skin
- Incorrect selection results in false sense of security and increased exposure
- Chemicals permeating the skin can cause harmful systematic effects
- Cut and puncture resistant gloves can prevent wounds and amputations
- Disposable gloves can prevent biologicals from entering the body through cuts or wounds.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment Training provides information:**

#### **Training**

- **When to use protective gloves**
- **How to put on, use, and take off gloves correctly**
- **Proper inspection and maintenance techniques**
- **How to dispose of used gloves correctly**

#### **Inspections**

- **Inspect gloves before and after each use**
- **Check for perforations by inflating gloves with air or water**
- **Inspect visually for tears or rips**
- **Discoloration or stiffness may indicate chemical degradation**
- **Torn or damaged gloves should be replaced immediately**

#### **Records**

- **Keep a list of the appropriate glove types for a specific job task once properly identified**
- **Maintain glove expiration dates and adhere closely to them**

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- **No single material can protect against all chemical, physical or biological hazards**
- **Do not reuse single use gloves, new gloves should be worn each time they are taken off, when chemical contact occurs, or when damage is suspected**
- **Thicker gloves usually offer more protection but may impair dexterity and sense of touch or feeling**
- **Hand washing should occur as soon as gloves are removed.**

#### **When do I need more help?**

- Uncertain about exposure hazards
- Unable to determine proper glove for task

#### **Where can I get it?**

- *Industrial Hygiene Reference & Study Guide* By: Allan Fleeger and Dean Lillquist
- *Quick Selection Guide to Chemical Protective Clothing* By: Krister Forsberg & S. Z. Mansdorf
- <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/protclothing/>
- <http://www.aiha.org/content/insideaiha/committees/pcecomm.htm>
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3151.pdf>
- [www.bestgloves.com](http://www.bestgloves.com)

Look for additional information on this topic at [www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org).

Look for additional information on this topic at [www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org).