# QuickTips

**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.

### What do I need to do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Inspections</th>
<th>Records</th>
<th>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment Training provides information:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• When to use protective gloves</td>
<td>• Inspect gloves before and after each use</td>
<td>• Keep a list of the appropriate glove types for a specific job task once properly identified</td>
<td>• No single material can protect against all chemical, physical or biological hazards</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How to put on, use, and take off gloves correctly</td>
<td>• Check for perforations by inflating gloves with air or water</td>
<td>• Maintain glove expiration dates and adhere closely to them</td>
<td>• 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</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Proper inspection and maintenance techniques</td>
<td>• Inspect visually for tears or rips</td>
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<td>• Thicker gloves usually offer more protection but may impair dexterity and sense of touch or feeling</td>
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<td>• How to dispose of used gloves correctly</td>
<td>• Discoloration or stiffness may indicate chemical degradation</td>
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<td>• Hand washing should occur as soon as gloves are removed.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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 Lilquist
- *Quick Selection Guide to Chemical Protective Clothing*  By: Krister Forsberg & S. Z. Mansdorf
- [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npttl/topics/protclothing/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npttl/topics/protclothing/)
- [http://www.aiha.org/content/insideaiha/committees/pcecomm.htm](http://www.aiha.org/content/insideaiha/committees/pcecomm.htm)
- [www.bestgloves.com](http://www.bestgloves.com)

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