SELECTING PROTECTIVE GLOVES FOR SOLVENT USE

Chemical-resistant gloves are made of a variety of materials, some are disposable and some are reusable. Selecting the wrong glove material could allow chemicals to pass through onto your skin. This is a potentially serious situation.

Select your gloves on the basis of their resistance to the material(s) you are handling. Some may provide superior protection but limit your dexterity or tear easily. See the glove chart below.

Tips for selecting the proper glove to keep you safe and get the job done

Disposal gloves are thinner, flexible and lightweight. Doubling disposable gloves makes them last longer.

Use disposable gloves when

- Contact with chemicals is not likely and
- You need a barrier to protect you from non-chemical materials

Don't use disposable gloves when

- Using corrosive or highly hazardous chemicals.

Never reuse disposable gloves

Durable gloves are thicker - over 10 mil. They can limit your dexterity.

Use reusable, durable gloves when

- You expect to have extended chemical contact and /or
- You are working with corrosive liquids or highly toxic compounds

When you're done with durable gloves

- If you have immersed reusable gloves in chemicals, let them drip back into the chemical solution before rinsing them off for reuse
- Otherwise, rinse them off over the sink before removing and allow them to air dry
- Inspect them before each use for discoloration, cracking or other damage
- if you suspect the gloves are damaged from use, dispose of them in the trash

Disposal of gloves

Carefully dispose of gloves exposed to chemicals. Pinch the wrist of one glove with the other and turn it inside out when removing it. Slip your ungloved finger under the edge of the other glove to do the same. Place both gloves in a plastic bag, seal it and dispose of it in the trash.

Thoroughly wash your hands after working with hazardous chemicals and removing protective gloves.

Contact your physician for advice if you develop rashes or other discomfort. Some people have allergic reactions to latex or the glove powder. Exposure to latex can cause occupational asthma in some people. It can also worsen preexisting symptoms for those already suffering from asthma. Some people wear thin cotton liner gloves under plastic gloves for comfort.

This chart summarizes glove compatibility data from glove suppliers and governmental sites. The ratings are based on the permeation rate of the chemicals. Chemicals may permeate through a glove without causing a visible change. Other factors to consider are the chemicals you use and how and where you use them.

Glove manufacturer guidelines to protect your skin from solvents

Solvents	Art products that may contain this hazardous solvent	Occasional chemical contact (disposable or durable)	Extended contact or immersion (durable)
Acetone	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Latex (double glove) or butyl	Butyl
Citrus solvent	Brush cleaner	Nitrile	Nitrile
Cyclohexane	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile	Nitrile
Ethyl acetate	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or butyl
Ethyl alcohol (Ethanol)	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile	Nitrile
Heptane	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives, rubber cement	Nitrile (double glove)	Nitrile or PVA
Hexane	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives, rubber cement	Nitrile (double glove)	Nitrile or PVA
Isopropyl alcohol (Isopropanol)	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile	Nitrile
Kerosene	Brush cleaner	Nitrile or Neoprene	Nitrile
Methyl alcohol (Methanol)	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile (double glove)	Butyl
Methylene chloride	Paint stripper	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	PVA
Methyl ethyl ketone	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	PVA
Mineral spirits	Brush cleaner, paint thinner, aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile	Nitrile
Naphtha, VM&P	Brush cleaner, paint thinner, aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile	Nitrile
Toluene	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile (double glove)	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)
Turpentine	Brush cleaner and thinner	Nitrile (double glove)	PVA
Xylene	Aerosol adhesives and fixatives	Nitrile (double glove)	PVA

To learn about the hazards of the chemicals you use

- Search the internet for the product's name followed by the letters "SDS" to find the product's safety data sheet.
- Take the time to read the hazard warnings and the recommendations for personal protection.