



Glove Selection

This information is a service of the OHSU Safety Committee (503 494-7795).

Proper glove selection is critical to protect users from hazardous materials they work with. Live training, including protection limitations, use, and proper disposal are essential in protective efforts.

Below are some general suggestions for glove selection:

1. Evaluate the physical conditions (e.g.: abrasion, cut, puncture, temperature) you will subject the glove to and determine which types of resistance are more important. Physical conditions can influence chemical resistance.
2. Consider features you need for your application: grip, length, dexterity, comfort, insulation, type of cuff, extent of coating. Gloves come in a variety of styles to suit specific applications.
3. Select the glove that offers you the optimum combination of features, benefits, and resistance to both physical and chemical hazards. Refer to manufacturer glove selection guides or consult with OHSU Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (503 494-7795).
4. Select a thinner-gauge unsupported glove when you require extra dexterity and tactile sensitivity. Choose a heavier-gauge unsupported glove for greater protection and wear. Consider a flock-lined, unsupported glove for extra comfort, insulation and wear. Choose a supported or cut-and-sewn glove for added cut, snag, puncture or abrasion resistance.
5. Choose the finish (e.g.: smooth vs. textured) you need for the grip necessary for your application. Note that some gloves have no special grip finish, yet still provide good gripping power due to intrinsic properties of the particular glove material.
6. Select a glove length by determining the depth to which your hand and arm will be immersed in a solution and the extent to which you need splash protection.
7. Select the size that gives you the right fit, dexterity and comfort. To determine your size, measure the circumference around the palm area. This is your glove size. For example, 7" is equal to a size 7 glove. (XS = 6-7, S = 7-8, M = 8-9, L = 9-10, XL = 10-11).
8. For product protection, consider the toughness, fit, thickness and degree of disposability required. Select the style that provides the most important of these features and benefits.
9. Glove colors can often be used to help identify contamination or to designate critical work areas. Select the style most suited to your needs.

