



Safety Gram

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Be Aware of Where to Wear Gloves

When to Wear Gloves

Gloves are part of full PPE requirements for lab work. From industry to the lab bench there is a time and a place to wear certain gloves. In the OSHA regulation on hand protection (29 CFR 1910.138) it states that all employees should wear proper hand protection when working with;

“...hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances; severe cuts or lacerations; severe abrasions; punctures; chemical burns; thermal burns; and harmful temperature extremes.”

There are many considerations to make when choosing a pair of gloves to wear. Below is a table discussing kinds of gloves and their uses.

| Glove Material | General Uses |
|----------------|--|
| Butyl | Offers the highest resistance to permeation by most gases and water vapor. Especially suitable for use with esters and ketones. |
| Neoprene | Provides moderate abrasion resistance but good tensile strength and heat resistance. Compatible with many acids, caustics and oils. |
| Nitrile | Excellent general duty glove. Provides protection from a wide variety of solvents, oils, petroleum products and some corrosives. Excellent resistance to cuts, snags, punctures and abrasions. |
| PVC | Provides excellent abrasion resistance and protection from most fats, acids, and petroleum hydrocarbons. |

Safety Committee

The purpose of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Safety Committee is to help protect researchers, workers, and students in the department.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions about lab safety.

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| PVA | Highly impermeable to gases. Excellent protection from aromatic and chlorinated solvents. Cannot be used in water or water-based solutions. |
| Viton | Exceptional resistance to chlorinated and aromatic solvents. Good resistance to cuts and abrasions. |
| Silver Shield | Resists a wide variety of toxic and hazardous chemicals. Provides the highest level of overall chemical resistance. |
| Natural rubber | Provides flexibility and resistance to a wide variety of acids, caustics, salts, detergents and alcohols. |

Where to Wear Gloves

As stated above, gloves are worn to protect the user against chemical injuries related to their work. Gloves really put the *Personal* in Personal Protective Equipment. They are used to protect you from hazardous, harmful substances. However, sometimes wearing gloves could prove unhelpful and may even put you at more of a risk for injury. These are a few guidelines for where, and where not, to wear gloves.

Where TO Wear gloves

- ❖ During lab work with hazardous chemicals.
- ❖ In a sterile environment.
- ❖ When handling animals.
- ❖ When sanitizing surfaces while using disinfectants.

Where NOT to Wear Gloves

- ❖ Outside of the laboratory, such as in hallways.
- ❖ When your gloves have ripped.
- ❖ When working in a new area when using a computer or phone.

Gloves and COVID

In an article published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) they stated that wearing gloves outside to protect against the virus will NOT help. "Wearing gloves outside of these instances (for example, when using a shopping cart or using an ATM) will not necessarily protect you from getting COVID-19 and may still lead to the spread of germs." The best hand hygiene practice is to wash them frequently during the day for 20 seconds with soap and water.

