**Chemical Protection**

When dealing with chemicals it is important to select the right glove for the task. Chemical resistant gloves provide protection for the workers’ hands as well as their arms. Chemical resistant gloves are manufactured with several different materials including latex, leather, nitrile, goatskin, vinyl, and neoprene to name a few. Glove standards have been put in place to provide the worker with a way to identify if the glove is right for the chemical the worker will be handling.



**Potential hand injuries associated with contact chemicals can include:**

* Defatting / dry skin.
* Corrosion / chemical burns.
* Irritation.
* Dermatitis: A localized inflammation of the skin caused by chemicals that are irritating to the skin and is localized to the area of contact.

**How to protect yourself and others:**

**Eventually any material, regardless of its imperviousness, will become permeated by chemicals. Gloves must be regularly checked for wear and tear. At the first signs of hardening and cracks, they should be changed.**

* Always be aware of hand placement.
* Identify and Control hazards of the task before starting the task.
* Discard leather and cloth gloves if they become saturated with oil or other chemicals.
* Choose the right glove for the task.
* Wear the proper Personal Protective Equipment.
* Maintain proper housekeeping by cleaning up chemical spills.
* Inspect gloves before use for tears, excessive wear, and punctures. Avoid washing your hands with solvents, harsh soaps, or abrasives.
* Clean and bandage all cuts and abrasions.
* Immediately remove any imbedded foreign materials.
* Wash immediately after using any chemical even if you did not detect leakage.
* Pay attention to skin rashes and get an immediate medical evaluation.

**Summary**

If the task requires the worker to use fine motor movements with their fingers and they find that the gloves impede them from performing their task, the worker may remove or not wear gloves. Find gloves that will not only protect the worker from chemical hazards but also allow them to do their tasks comfortably. To help find the right glove for the task ask your supervisor, or EH&S and/or the glove reseller.

**Let’s discuss what could affect you and your co-workers**

Can you list the chemical hazards in your work area you will be handling?

Am I using the right gloves to handle the chemicals in my work area?

What are some other ways we can protect ourselves from chemical hazards at our site?

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| **MEETING DESCRIPTION** | | | |
| **Meeting Date:** |  | **Time:** |  |
| **Location:** |  | **Supervisor:** |  |
| **Number in Crew:** |  | **Number Attended:** |  |
| **Attended By:** |  |  | **Absent** |
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| **REVIEW ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** | **INCIDENTS/INJURIES REVIEWED** |
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| **TOPICS DISCUSSED** |
| 1. **Hand Safety – Chemical Protection** |
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| **WORKERS CONCERNS** |
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| **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN** |
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| **MEETING CONDUCTED BY** | | | |
| **Supervisor:** |  | **Manager:** |  |
| **Date:** |  | **Date:** |  |