



March 1, 2017

When is a Glove Not Just a Glove?

When we need something to protect our hands from a mess, there is almost always a box of some sort of gloves around. They are ubiquitous, from clinics, to restaurant kitchens, to industrial shops, to child care centers. However some thought should go into selecting the ones that you will stock in your area, based on how they are likely to be used.

There are three basic materials from which these gloves are made:

Natural rubber latex is derived from plants. Latex fits well, wears well, and is effective as a barrier between your skin and a biohazard. Less effective against chemical exposure than nitrile, the puncture potential is a little greater, and because of its origin, proteins may be present that some people are sensitive or allergic to. Plant based ingredients are more subject to fluctuations in cost, but on the plus side, they are biodegradable.

Vinyl is a synthesized product. These gloves are seen more commonly in food service applications. They do not stretch, so the lack of a form fitting contour make them unsuitable for tasks that require very sensitive manual dexterity. They are inexpensive, but not well suited for work with chemicals or other hazardous materials, including bio-hazards.

Nitrile is also a man-made substance. Overall it is the preferred medium for these kinds of gloves. It stretches, and is quite resilient, and like vinyl, since it's a chemical, there are no proteins to provoke allergic responses. The puncture potential is less than latex, however when nitrile breaches, it splits completely, giving a very clear indicator that the glove is compromised. They have the longest shelf life, and offer the most protection from chemicals and bio-hazards.

Neither vinyl or nitrile are readily biodegradable, and it should be noted that in all of these products, other ingredients are necessary to turn them into a glove that you can wear. Some of those additives can be responsible for allergy-like reactions in some people.

Other things to consider are the thickness of the glove, and the grade. Utility grade and medical grade are different, and a new, clean glove doesn't automatically mean a sterile glove. However for administering first aid, clean gloves are fine for the patient, and a first line defense for the caregiver, to protect against contact with infectious agents.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Forklift Operator/Safety Training

Location: Boise State University, Pioneer Hall 102/FO&M Yard
Date: March 8, 2017 - 2-3 p.m.
Date: March 29, 2017 - 2-3 p.m.

Building Coordinator 101

Location: Boise State University, Pioneer Hall 102
Date: March 15, 2017 - 10-11 a.m.

Introduction to role and responsibilities of the BSU Building Coordinator.

FROM THE INTERNET



[Work Safely in Floodwaters](#)

Source: [safetyandhealthmagazine.com](#)



[10 Ways to Destress at Work](#)

Source: Patient First, Health Matters blog

SAFETY BRAIN TEASER

What's wrong with this picture?



Last month's teaser: Seat and rear view mirror not properly adjusted, leg touching steering wheel, food in lap, phone in hand, binder on dash and laptop are potential distractions/projectile hazards, open beverage container, driver doesn't appear to be wearing seat belt.

MANAGER'S CORNER

"Safety is, without doubt, the most crucial investment we can make. And the question is not what it costs us, but what it saves."

Robert E McKee, Chairman and Managing Director, Conoco (UK) Ltd

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS...

Please feel free to contact us to provide feedback on the content of this newsletter, or to suggest topics that you would like to see addressed, or inquire about training you wish to participate in.

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