### Gloves Selection Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glove Material</th>
<th>Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nitrile</td>
<td>Good with oils, greases, some weak acids and bases. Avoid intentional contact with ketones, oxidising acids and organic compounds containing nitrogen. Good all round chemical splash protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl (PVC)</td>
<td>Good for weak acids and bases, oils, fats, amines and peroxides. Avoid intentional contact with ketones and aromatic solvents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butyl Rubber</td>
<td>Good for ketones and esters. Poor for petrol, aliphatic, aromatic and halogenated solvents and where dexterity is critical.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)</td>
<td>Good for aromatics and chlorinated solvents. Avoid for water based solutions (dissolves in water).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neoprene</td>
<td>Good for weak acid, strong bases, alcohols, fuels, peroxides, hydrocarbons and phenols. Remains flexible at low temperatures. Poor for halogenated and aromatic solvents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viton</td>
<td>Good for chlorinated and aromatic solvents. Poor for ketones and dexterity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latex (Natural rubber)*</td>
<td>Good for incidental contact with phenol, dilute aqueous acids and bases, inorganic chemicals. Poor for oils, greases and hydrocarbon derivatives.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Natural rubber latex can cause a very serious allergic reaction. Always look for an alternative where possible. Powdered latex gloves must not be used. If unpowdered gloves are used, the maximum free protein content should be 50 ug per gram of glove material.

### Guidance for the use of gloves

- Select the gloves that is most appropriate for the chemicals you are handling
  - Disposable gloves are for small incidental splash or contact
  - Re-useable gloves are better suited when immersion is unavoidable
- Check that the glove is fit for purpose – no tears or holes
- Ensure the glove fits correctly
- Do not re-use disposable gloves
- Keep surface of glove clean when working – it may be necessary to wash the external surface of the glove regularly
- Remove gloves in the correct manner – see ‘Skin Care Guide’
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Always remove gloves before:
  - leaving the laboratory;
  - using taps, phones and keyboards;
  - writing in lab book
- Dispose of gloves in a proper manner
- If you contaminate your disposable glove with toxic chemicals change immediately

Check the packaging of gloves for **BS EN 374** and the symbols above and also PPE cat I – for minimal risk, PPE cat III for serious harm (CE marked)

Examination gloves are not PPE – they are medical devices.

Gloves tested to **ASTM F1671** are resistant to viruses – particles >27nm.

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**There is no single glove material that protects against all chemical hazards**

Contact your Health and Safety Adviser for further guidance on the correct selection of gloves.