

How to use disposable gloves correctly?

Gloves can be classified into 2 categories: reusable and disposable gloves.

A reusable chemical protective glove is a glove that does not need to be replaced immediately after it has been in contact with a chemical. These types of gloves will therefore provide a protection on the long run for the users. Reusables can be used for both contact with occasional splashes of chemicals and for direct contact with these chemicals. Furthermore, even if we officially don't recommend the users to reuse a glove, they could however do so but would have to inspect the gloves visually to check if they weren't altered due to their previous contact with chemicals.

A disposable chemical protective glove is not reusable, usually made of natural rubber, nitrile, neoprene or vinyl, which has a lower thickness than reusable gloves. They are usually packed in a dispenser of 100 pieces and fit both hands (ambidextrous gloves).

Disposables are used to protect the user from an occasional splash of chemical, typically in a laboratory environment. Indeed, laboratory workers use a lot of different chemicals but also need a good dexterity to handle fine equipment. Therefore, a thin glove must almost always be used in those kinds of environments.



There is only one correct way to work safely with disposables: once a splash of chemical has landed on the disposable glove, the user has to throw away the used glove and replace it right away. This remark is valid regardless of the chemical.

Therefore, disposable gloves only provide a protection against occasional splashes of chemicals or for short contact with them. If the user needs a protection that lasts longer, he/she shouldn't be using disposable gloves.

Please note that permeation breakthrough times are less relevant for disposable gloves than for reusable ones. Indeed, since disposable gloves protect the user only from an occasional splash of chemicals and since these gloves typically have very low permeation times towards most common chemicals, analyzing the permeation times in detail does not make much sense and rarely provides clear conclusions.

Here is a concrete example:

Natural Rubber	Neoprene	Neoprene
Disposable	Supported	Supported
Low	High	High
Conform +	Neox	Scorpio
69-150	09-430.908.922.924 .928	08-352.354
0.12mm	Undefined	Undefined
<10'	<10'	<10'
<1'	<10'	5'
<10'	<10'	<10'

For disposable gloves :
This glove could be recommended

For reusable gloves :
These gloves cannot be recommended

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You can see that the permeation times for all 3 of those gloves are really low.

- For the reusable gloves : if a reusable glove has a low permeation time for a chemical, this glove shouldn't be recommended to use when confronted with this chemical. Another reusable glove with a higher permeation time should be chosen, since reusable gloves should protect the users on the long run.
- For the disposable gloves : if the customer uses disposable gloves the correct way (by throwing away the glove that has been splashed and by replacing it right away), a disposable glove that has a low permeation time could be recommended.

Sometimes, however, it happens that a worker doesn't have any other choice than to work with disposable gloves for a longer time, even if the glove was splashed. This typically happens when a good dexterity level is needed for the

whole duration of the work. To avoid any protection problem, the worker can always use Barrier[®] gloves as undergloves and then put disposable gloves over the Barrier[®]. This way, both the protection and the dexterity levels will be optimal.

Recommendations made in this note are based on extrapolations from laboratory test results and information regarding the composition of chemicals and may not adequately represent specific conditions of end use. Synergistic effects of mixing chemicals have not been accounted for. For these reasons, and because Ansell has no detailed knowledge of or control over the conditions of end use, any recommendation must be advisory only and Ansell fully disclaims any liability including warranties related to any statement contained herein.