

GLOVES BUYERS GUIDE



andway
healthcare in hand

Gloves are an essential part of equipment and they are used in various workplace situations. It can sometimes be unclear which glove is best to use and the different options available.

We have therefore produced this guide to help make things that little bit clearer.

THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUYING GLOVES

- What kind of substance you may be handling – for example, body fluids or chemicals
- Other hazards, such as a risk of cuts or puncture
- The level of dexterity and grip required
- The type of contact (splashes or immersion)
- The sizes required
- Your organisation's policies about latex allergies.
- Your organisation's risk assessment should indicate the instances when gloves are required and the kind of substance you may encounter.

MATERIALS

Medical Grade Vinyl Gloves and Latex Gloves are the most common gloves used within the Care Sector.

NITRILE GLOVES

Polythene Gloves: a good choice for general food preparation when frequent changes are required, for instance preparing meals for different food tolerances

Synthetic Gloves: An economical medical grade alternative to Latex or Nitrile gloves. High quality medical gloves offering excellent protection and good value for money.

Synthetic disposable gloves are hypo-allergenic as they are latex free being made from high quality stretch vinyl. Synthetic gloves are soft and flexible to wear, however they are not as chemical resistant as Nitrile Gloves but still offering excellent protection and value for money.

VINYL GLOVES

Medical Grade Vinyl Gloves are strong and a great for day to day tasks. Being latex free they are ideal for latex allergy sufferers. Medical Grade Vinyl Gloves are a lot cheaper than other glove variations, and conform to BS EN 455 parts 1, 2, 3 & 4.

LATEX GLOVES

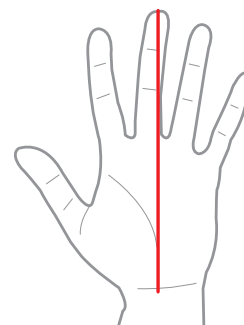
Latex Gloves are popular for being strong whilst providing great sensitivity when performing precise tasks. They often have textured finger and palm areas which provide enhanced grip. Latex Gloves should conform to BS EN455, Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4

GLOVE SIZES - MEASURING YOUR HAND

EU sizes		US sizes	
160 mm	EU - 6	6 ⁵ / ₁₆ inches	XS
171 mm	EU - 7	6 ³ / ₄ inches	S
182 mm	EU - 8	7 ³ / ₁₆ inches	M
192 mm	EU - 9	7 ⁹ / ₁₆ inches	L
204 mm	EU - 10	8 ¹ / ₁₆ inches	XL
215 plus mm	EU - 11	8 ⁷ / ₁₆ plus inches	XXL

LENGTH

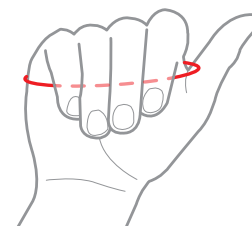
Measure from the bottom edge of palm to the tip of your middle finger to determine your 'finger length' size.



EU sizes		US sizes	
152 - 178 mm	EU - 6	6-7 inches	XS
178 - 203 mm	EU - 7	7-8 inches	S
203 - 229 mm	EU - 8	8-9 inches	M
229 - 254 mm	EU - 9	9-10 inches	L
254 - 279 mm	EU - 10	10-11 inches	XL
279 plus mm	EU - 11	11 + inches	XXL

WIDTH

Wrap a measuring tape around your dominant hand just below knuckles, excluding your thumb, and make a fist. This measurement is your 'hand width' glove size.



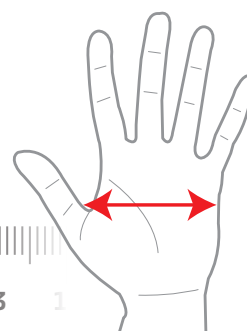
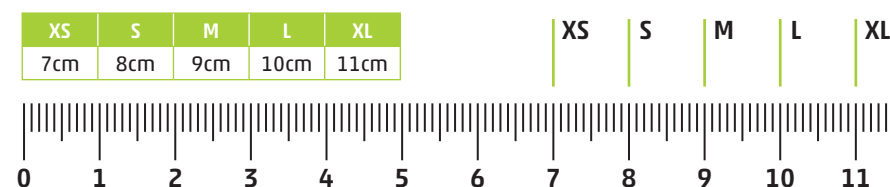
SIZING AND APPLICATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORRECTLY FITTING GLOVES

So you've decided which type of glove is best for the task, now it's vital that you get the right size. Getting this wrong will increase the likelihood of injury or contamination. Too big and the loose fitting material will reduce dexterity and grip, too small and you risk ripping or puncturing your glove as well as decreasing hand flexibility.

Measure the width of your palm at its widest point

XS	S	M	L	XL
7cm	8cm	9cm	10cm	11cm



HOW TO TEST THE FIT:

While wearing your gloves, extend your fingers until they are straight. If the glove is too small the nitrile or latex will be stretching or if you see tears forming in the material where your thumb meets your palm.

GLOVE APPLICATION

Firstly ensure you're in a clean area with clean freshly washed hands, free from any contamination risk, as any germs will transfer to and through the glove. Using your knuckles, as opposed to your fingertips to pull the glove on means you won't tear it. **Roll your fingers to use the backs of your knuckles, not your fingertips.**


STERILE VS NON-STERILE

Sterile gloves are primarily used for surgical purposes, which means they have to meet stricter standards, and provide a higher level of protection against contamination. However, at around 7 times the price of non-sterile gloves, they are best kept for wound care and other higher infection risk procedures.

POWDER VS POWDER-FREE

Corn starch is used in the production of gloves, leaving a light dusting of corn starch powder which helps with putting on and taking off gloves and helps to absorb any perspiration. A powder free medical glove should have less than 2mg of powder per glove.

COMPARISON CHART

	Vinyl	Nitrile	Latex	Rubber	Polythene	Cotton
Fit						
Comfort	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	★ ★ ★
Sensitivity	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	★	★ ★ ★
Ambidextrous	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Durability						
Puncture resistant	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	★
Tear resistant	★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	★ ★ ★
Approved usage						
Food preparation	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	
Oil & grease	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★	
Chemicals	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	
Medical	★ ★	★ ★	★ ★			
General purpose	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Allergens						
Latex free	✓	✓			✓	✓
Powder free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biodegradable		✓	✓	✓		✓
	    	    	    	    	    	 

DOUBLE GLOVING

Wearing two layers of medical gloves will reduce the danger of infection from glove failure or penetration by sharp objects and needles during medical procedures. Double gloving has been proven to offer significantly more protection compared to the use of a single glove layer.

USAGE SYMBOLS



Suitable for use with food preparation and catering environments



Suitable for use with mild chemicals



A medical grade glove, suitable for non-invasive medical procedures



A general purpose glove suitable for most janitorial jobs



Suitable for latex allergies



Non-powdered