Gloves

What are some advantages and disadvantages of natural rubber latex (NRL) gloves?

NRL gloves are the standard of care with excellent tactility, elasticity and resistance to tearing but are not the preferred gloves for latex-sensitive people. The prevalence of NRL allergy is about 1-6% in the general population and 7-10% in healthcare workers. Improved NRL gloves and other materials are available today.

Powderless NRL gloves reduce airborne allergens. Synthetic gloves (vinyl, nitrile, chloroprene, neoprene) are virtually non-allergenic.

Characteristics

Tactility – Most important for the discerning clinician.

Puncture Resistance – Increases with thickness. In general, nitrile > latex > vinyl.

Fit – Gloves may be extra-small, small, medium, large, or extra-large. Fitted (procedure) gloves offer half-sizes from 5.5 to 8.5 and include right- and left-handed shapes and anatomical contours.

Donning and Removal – Powder (usually cornstarch) or chlorination reduces stickiness. Powder aerosols from NRL gloves are potentially harmful, but not from synthetic gloves. Disposal of chlorinated gloves is an environmental concern.

Allergenicity – Allergen levels in NRL gloves can be reduced in manufacturing. Powderless NRL gloves have reduced airborne particulates.

Defects – New gloves have leakage rates of 2% or less. Non-sterile vinyl gloves have less barrier protection than latex gloves. Most gloves leak more after use.

Effect of Chemicals – Disinfectants, hand lotions and methacrylate monomers can compromise glove integrity.

Shelf-life – 3 months.

Cost – A low- or non-allergenic glove is inexpensive compared to the cost of losing one’s career due to latex hypersensitivity. The compatibility of a fitted, properly sized glove during longer procedures is invaluable.
## Rating Gloves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Type*</th>
<th>TDA Issue</th>
<th>Cost/Pair, $†</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLOSSOM GLOVES</td>
<td>BLOSSOM DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS - MEXPO</td>
<td>Latex</td>
<td>A, PFA</td>
<td>17-10</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOSSOM LATEX EXAMINATION GLOVES</td>
<td>BLOSSOM DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS - MEXPO</td>
<td>Latex</td>
<td>F, PF</td>
<td>20-5</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOSSOM WHITE SYNTHETIC VINYL GLOVES</td>
<td>BLOSSOM DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS - MEXPO</td>
<td>Vinyl</td>
<td>F, PF</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAMOND GRIP PLUS</td>
<td>MICROFLEX</td>
<td>Latex</td>
<td>A, PF</td>
<td>17-10</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREEFORM SE</td>
<td>MICROFLEX</td>
<td>Nitrile</td>
<td>A, PF</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>ce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONEYCOMB TEXTURED AURELIA GLOVES</td>
<td>SUPERMAX</td>
<td>Latex</td>
<td>A, PF</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEOPRO</td>
<td>MICROFLEX</td>
<td>Chlo propene</td>
<td>A, PF</td>
<td>17-10</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A=ambidextrous, F=fitted, P=powder, PF=powder-free, PFA=powder-free with aloe, ce=currently evaluating
†Costs are listed for comparison only and are not used to calculate the ratings. All costs are listed in U.S. dollars.

**THE DENTAL ADVISOR** Recommends:

*Blossom Gloves, Diamond Grip Plus, Blossom White Synthetic Vinyl Gloves*

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**Blossom Gloves**
(Blossom Disposable Products – Mexpo)

**Blossom White Synthetic Vinyl Gloves**
(Blossom Disposable Products – Mexpo)

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