

THE DENTAL ADVISOR

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"Improved Patient Care Through Research"



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Gloves

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

A 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

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

*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



Blossom Gloves

(Blossom Disposable Products – Mexpo)



Blossom White Synthetic Vinyl Gloves

(Blossom Disposable Products – Mexpo)

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