

Glove Selection and Removal Instructions

It is essential that laboratory personnel select appropriate protective gloves and wear them whenever handling chemicals. The following procedures should be utilized to select and use chemical resistant gloves.

SELECTION:

- Chemical resistance charts are available at this website, at the glove manufacturer's websites, and in IU's Chemistry and Biology Stockroom. These charts contain chemical resistance data on the gloves that are sold at these stockrooms.
- No glove is completely resistant to a chemical. Even the best chemically resistant glove will breakdown after repeated chemical exposure.
- Different glove materials resist different chemicals; no one glove is suited for all chemical exposures.
- Choose your glove material based on the manufacturer's chemical resistance data. Call the glove manufacturer if you have specific questions about their gloves.
- The chemical resistance of a given glove material can vary from one manufacturer to another.
- When selecting a glove the user must consider chemical resistance, thickness, length of the glove, dexterity requirements, and comfort.
- For mixtures and formulated products, a glove should be selected on the basis of the chemical component with the shortest breakthrough time (unless specific test data is available).
- *Latex allergy alert!* Do not wear latex gloves if you think you have (or might have) a latex allergy.

INSPECTION:

- All gloves should be inspected before use for indications of degradation (swelling, cracking, shrinking, or discoloration) and any signs of holes or punctures. A damaged glove should be immediately taken out of service.

CHANGING and CLEANING GLOVES:

- Change gloves frequently, especially thinner disposable gloves that have been exposed to chemicals.
- If a glove becomes contaminated it should be removed and discarded as soon as possible.
- Thicker reusable gloves should be rinsed after use to prolong their life and prevent the spread of chemical contamination from the dirty glove.
- Never reuse thin disposable gloves.

GLOVE REMOVAL:

- Remove gloves before leaving the immediate work site to prevent contamination of door knobs, light switches, telephones, etc.
- Do not wear gloves into the hallways because it can lead to (and be perceived as) spreading contamination into the hallways.
- To remove gloves, pinch the first glove near the cuff (but not at the edge). Pull the glove off inside out. Wad that glove up in the palm of the hand with the remaining glove. Insert two fingers under the cuff of the remaining glove and remove that glove inside out while keeping the first glove inside the second.



This results in a neat package of gloves (inside out) with the first glove inside the second and all the contamination on the inside. Dispose of gloves properly.

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after wearing gloves.

For further information refer to the IU Laboratory Chemical Safety Plan, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP 3.16) Personal Protective Equipment Procedures for Selection and Use.

www.ehs.iu.edu/topics/laboratory-chemical-safety

If you need assistance selecting a glove call the Office of Environmental, Health, and Safety Management (812) 855-6311.