



4 Steps To Choosing Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] For Hands

Most workplaces require hand protection by wearing gloves. Conduct a hazard assessment of the workplace to prevent hand/arm injuries. It's important to consider the requirements of a particular application when choosing a glove material AND as it relates to the hazards and protection.



ARE YOUR WORKERS WEARING THE CORRECT HAND-WEAR PPE?



Hazards to consider when deciding on the appropriate Hand-wear PPE:

- Type of chemicals handled and Nature of contact (total immersion, splash, etc.)
- Heat and cold exposure, sparks
- sharp and rough objects
- slippery, dirty objects [dry, wet, oily]
- machines, guarding
- pace of work



When recruiting or dispatching a worker to the worksite, ensure the safety hand-wear worn to ensure safely while being productive.



Cut-resistant gloves come in various fabrics offering different level of cut resistance.

Leather, Canvas or Metal Mesh Gloves - protection against cuts and burns. Leather or canvass gloves also protect against sustained heat.

Chemical- and Liquid-Resistant Gloves – protect against chemicals and are made with different kinds of rubber

 Hint: the thicker the glove material, the greater the chemical resistance

Cotton Flannel Fabric and Coated Fabric Gloves - protection against dirt, slivers, chafing and abrasions. Coated gloves have plastic on one side offering slip-resistant qualities. These gloves are used for tasks ranging from handling bricks and wire to chemical laboratory containers.



ANSI standards are used across North America to determine the level of protection needed for puncture resistance, abrasion resistance, and impact force.

STEP 3
IDENTIFY LEVEL OF PROTECTION

9 ANSI cut levels and the types of hazards that they're suitable for:

Grams to Cut	Cut Levels	Cut Hazards
200g - 400g	ANSI A1 CUT	LIGHT Applications in assembly, warehouse, construction, material handling
500g - 999g	ANSI A2 CUT	LIGHT - MEDIUM Applications in automotive assembly, packaging, metal handling, construction
1000g - 1499g	ANSI A3 CUT	LIGHT - MEDIUM Applications in automotive assembly, packaging, metal handling, construction
1500g - 2199g	ANSI A4 CUT	MEDIUM Applications in glass handling, HVAC, appliance manufacturing, automotive, machining, metal fabrication
2200g - 2999g	ANSI A5 CUT	MEDIUM - HIGH Applications in glass handling, HVAC, appliance manufacturing, automotive, machining, metal fabrication
3000g - 3999g	ANSI A6 CUT	HIGH Applications in metal stamping & fabrication, glass handling, HVAC, electrical, construction
4000g - 4999g	ANSI A7 CUT	HIGHER Applications in metal stamping & fabrication, glass handling, HVAC, electrical, construction, window manufacturing, recycling, aerospace
5000g - 5999g	ANSI A8 CUT	HIGHEST Applications in metal stamping & fabrication, glass handling, HVAC, electrical, construction, window manufacturing, recycling, aerospace
6000g +	ANSI A9 CUT	EXTREME Applications in metal stamping & fabrication, glass handling, HVAC, electrical, construction, window manufacturing, recycling, aerospace

3 ANSI FORCES:

Gloves with ANSI/ISEA 138 level performance should be used for impact resistant hand protection to protect the knuckles and fingers from impact forces:

PERFORMANCE LEVEL	MEAN TRANSMITTED FORCE	INCREASING PROTECTION
ANSI/ISEA 138 3	≤4 KN	
ANSI/ISEA 138 2	≤6.5 KN	
ANSI/ISEA 138 1	≤9 KN	

Canadian standards also stress the employer's responsibility to give relevant training to each worker who will use PPE.

This training should cover when to wear specific types of PPE, how to properly use it, and what the limitations are.



STEP 4
TRAINING