



Use and Care of Insulated Rubber Gloves

Every lineman has an occasion to use insulated rubber gloves. Often, long periods may lapse between times when gloves are needed. As a refresher, here are some rules and information to reacquaint you with guidelines for the use of insulated rubber gloves.

The proper selection of rubber gloves should be in accordance with the “Class of Rubber Glove” and its “Maximum Use Threshold” as shown in the first two columns of the table below. Leather protectors or “over-gloves” should always be worn over rubber insulating gloves to provide the needed mechanical protection against cuts, scrapes and punctures. Their use should conform to the “Minimum Distance,” as described in the table’s third column. The “Minimum Distance” relates to the distance between the top of the protector gauntlet to the top of the rubber glove cuff.

Class of Rubber Glove	Maximum Use Voltage	Minimum Distance
0	1,000 volts	1 inch
1	7,500 volts	1 inch
2	17,000 volts	2 inches
3	26,500 volts	3 inches
4	36,000 volts	4 inches

Voltage should be considered to be phase-to-phase voltage unless all conductors except the one being worked are insulated (with protective devices) or isolated so that physical contact cannot be made with any energized part. In that case, phase-to-ground voltage will determine maximum use voltage.

When using rubber gloves, they should be put on before coming within falling or reaching distance (not less than 5 feet) of unprotected energized circuits or apparatus, or those which may become energized. They should not be removed until they are out of falling or reaching distance of such circuits or apparatus.

Rubber gloves should never be worn inside out or without leather protectors. They should be exchanged at any time they become damaged or the user becomes suspicious of them.

Rubber gloves should be inspected for corona cracks or other damage and should be given an air test (by blowing into the glove) at least once each day while in use, preferably at the beginning of the work period and at any other time when their condition is in doubt. They should be checked before each use.

When not in use, gloves should be kept in canvas bags or other approved containers and stored where they will not become damaged from sharp objects or exposed to direct sunlight. They should never be folded while stored nor should other objects be placed upon them.

Rubber gloves should be stored in the glove bag with the cuffs down to permit drainage, better ventilation and reduce the possibility of damage.

