



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Glove Selection

In a construction work environment, a worker's hands are exposed to countless physical hazards. Many hazards can be mitigated/reduced by wearing the proper gloves.

Specialized gloves are required for the following work tasks:

- Torch cutting or welding
- Painting
- Using chemicals; including caustics, acids and/or solvents
- Handling sharp materials
- Cleaning up scrap
- Handling creosote-treated lumber
- Doping or wrapping pipe
- Any other activity which may expose an employee's hands to a recognized hazard

Work gloves do not protect the hands from all types of injuries, and they are not a substitute for safe work practices and engineering controls. Foremen and management should select the best glove for the work activity during the planning stages and include this information in the job hazard analysis (JHA). Employees must always do their part to prevent injuries by keeping their hands out of crush points and burning situations.

All gloves offer some degree of protection, with advantages and disadvantages associated with each type. Each operational hazard analysis that identifies a risk of injury to the hands shall require a specific type of glove for protection.

Below are recommended glove types for several operations that require gloves:

Type	Associated Operation	Application	Additional Requirements
100% Leather	Material handling, housekeeping	Limited puncture resistance, absorbs some impact, some thermal resistance	Little or no protection from liquid chemicals.
Latex Palm	Carpentry, housekeeping	Good wet grip, some puncture and abrasion resistance	Little or no protection from liquid chemicals. No burning or welding.
Mechanics Gloves	Maintenance work	Synthetic leather palm and index finger. Protect against incidental contact with hot surfaces. Maintenance work. Good sensitivity and dexterity.	They are not flameproof or fire retardant. Do not expose to extreme abrasion, open flame or sparks from grinding. Not waterproof. No welding or cutting.
PVC Coated	Concrete work, petroleum and refining	Prevents contact with mild chemicals, oils and solvents and strong acids.	Check SDS for specific instructions on which type is needed for protection. Inspect for cracks, tears, or damage before use.



Kevlar	Sheet metal, using cutting tools, carpenter use when working around sharp edges, such as cutting Styrofoam.	When cut resistance is the main goal. Good dexterity but offers limited thermal resistance.	Check the gloves before wearing to make sure they are not cut, torn, or damaged.
Electrical Leather Protectors	Live electrical work	High – and low voltage, superior puncture, abrasion and moisture resistance.	Must be worn over rubber gloves. Check voltage for specific instruction on which type you need for protection. Replace if cracked, torn or damaged. Must test for holes before using.
Welding Leather	Welding	Protects hands from heat and welding sparks. Excellent touch sensitivity.	Inspect for damage. Replace any glove that is torn, worn, cracked or damaged.



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Date:

Presented by:

Organization/Department Name

Attendee Printed Name	Signature

Comments: