

# Gloves



## NEED TO KNOW

There are two main types of glove:

- **Disposable** – thin, tight fitting and designed to protect against dirt, liquids, mild chemicals etc.
- **Re-useable** – thicker and offer more protection against rough surfaces, chemicals, and sharp objects.

Disposable gloves are made of different materials:

- Nitrile
- Latex
- Vinyl
- Polythene
- Polysynthetic

NB – Some people have allergies to latex

		Nitrile	Latex	Vinyl	Polythene	Polysynthetic
	Type	Synthetic	Natural/ rubber	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic
For Use	Medical	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Food	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Attributes	Puncture resistance	High	Good	OK	Poor	OK
	Chemical resistance	High	Good	Poor	Poor	OK
	Biodegradable	Good	High	High	Poor	Poor
	Dexterity	High	High	High	Good	Good

Gloves come in powdered or non-powdered varieties (powder is generally corn-starch):

- **Powdered** - Tend to offer more grip for the wearer, they have less strength than non-powdered so avoid very manual work. Very comfortable, with the moisture-wicking powder preventing hands from overheating.
- **Non-powdered** - Less likely to lead to skin irritation. Harder to don; need completely dry hands. Tend to be stronger than powdered gloves. Safe for food handling.

## KEY FACTS

Hands must be washed before and after wearing gloves. Gloves provide a barrier between wearer and external environment and provide protection from hazardous substances/objects but you need to choose the right type of glove for the activity you are doing.

[All Disposable Gloves >](#)

[Vinyl Gloves >](#)

[Latex Gloves >](#)

[Nitrile Gloves >](#)

[Synthetic Gloves >](#)