

Use and Care of Protective Gloves

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

KEY POINTS:

- **Chemical-resistant gloves** will help protect your hands and fingers from hazards.
- Always read the material safety data sheet (MSDS) and the pesticide label.
- Don't wear **chemical-resistant gloves** that are damaged.

Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute tailgate training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.

Bring to your training session samples of the [chemical-resistant gloves](#) used in your operation.

Why protective gloves are important

- Without the use of our hands and fingers, hundreds of simple tasks such as tying our shoelaces would be impossible to do.
- Yet each year, thousands of workers seriously injure their hands on the job. Most of these accidents occur because protective gloves are not worn.
- Handling chemicals exposes your hands to certain hazards. Pesticides and other chemicals may cause:
 - chemical burns,
 - dermatitis – a skin irritation caused by an adverse reaction to a chemical, or
 - allergic reactions
- **Chemical-resistant gloves** will prevent your hands from being damaged by pesticides or other chemicals.

Choosing the right type of glove

- Gloves are made of many different materials. Even though two gloves may look identical, they may offer different levels of chemical resistance.
- Always read the material safety data sheet (MSDS) and the pesticide label. The label will tell you the right glove type to wear while handling the pesticide.

Note to trainer: Show trainees samples of the [chemical-resistant gloves](#) used in your operation. Tell them when they should be worn.

Warning: Certain materials won't protect you from hazardous chemicals. **Don't** wear leather or cotton gloves when handling chemicals. **Don't** wear cotton gloves coated with nitrile or other rubber-type material. Check with your supervisor if you are uncertain about a specific glove's material.



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See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

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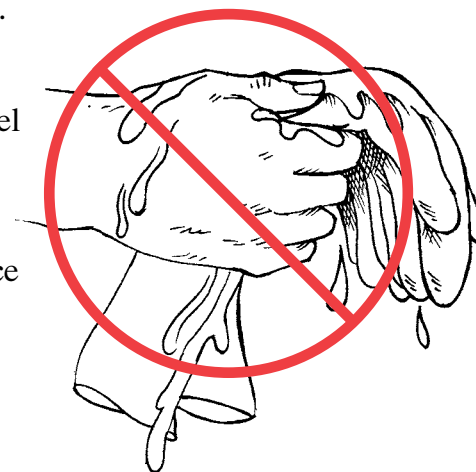
Taking care of [chemical-resistant gloves](#)

1. Be sure the gloves you plan to wear are clean. Don't touch them if you're not sure. Instead, ask your supervisor for a different pair.
2. Carefully inspect the gloves before you put them on. Look for cracks, tears, holes, swelling or other damage. Chemicals can pass through even the smallest pinhole. If you spot any damage, discard the gloves.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water before you put on the gloves. Bandage any minor cuts or scrapes.
4. Close each glove tightly outside of your sleeve. If you work with liquid chemicals, you can seal the edge of your gloves with heavy-duty tape or an elastic band.
5. Wash the outside of your gloves with soap and water before you remove them. Always wash them when you take a break and when you are done for the day. Then thoroughly wash your hands.
6. Put your gloves in the proper container when you are finished with your task for the day.



A few more safety tips

- Immediately remove your gloves if pesticides or other chemicals get inside. Thoroughly wash your hands, then put on clean gloves. Report the incident to your supervisor.
- Never touch contaminated gloves with bare hands.
- Some people are sensitive to latex gloves. If your hands itch or feel irritated from these gloves, you can substitute a different type of protective glove. But remember: Leather or cotton work gloves won't protect you from hazardous materials.
- Don't store your gloves inside out. Store gloves in a cool, dry place away from chemicals.
- Wear [chemical-resistant gloves](#) that extend to at least the mid-forearm when working with pesticides.
- Shoulder-length gloves or gloves worn with [chemical-resistant sleeve guards](#) are ideal for mixing and loading highly toxic chemicals or liquids.



Never touch contaminated gloves with your bare hands.

Are there any questions?

Note to trainer: Take time to answer trainees' questions. Then review the **Protective Gloves Do's and Don'ts**.

PROTECTIVE GLOVES DO'S AND DON'TS	
<p>DO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose the right type of protective glove. • Immediately remove your gloves if pesticides or other chemicals get in them. • Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently. 	<p>DON'T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove your gloves during handling tasks. • Let your bare skin touch contaminated gloves. • Wear leather or cotton gloves when handling chemicals.

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