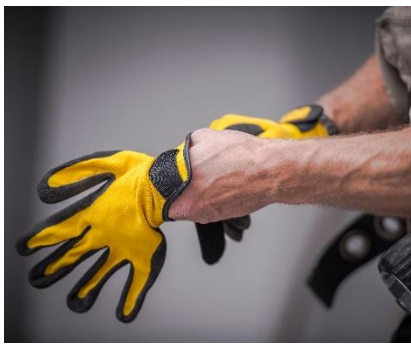
HAND SAFETY

Safety Topic V6-0456 Personal Protection

If a workplace hazard assessment reveals that employees face potential injury to their hands that cannot be eliminated through engineering and work practice controls, workers must wear appropriate hand protection. Injuries and illnesses that can occur if workers don't wear the correct hand protection:



- Skin Absorption of Harmful Substances
- Cuts, Lacerations, Abrasions, or Puncture Wounds
- Nerve or Tendon Damage Caused by Exposure to Vibration
- Heat Stress or Frostbite Due to Temperature Extremes
- Shocks and Burns from Electricity
- Chemical or Thermal Burns

It is essential that workers use gloves specifically designed for the hazards and tasks found in their workplace or on the job site because gloves designed for one job hazard may not protect against a different hazard.

- Gloves should fit snugly.
- Gloves contaminated with flammable or combustible materials should not be used around hot work operations or while working near an ignition source.
- Workers should wear the right gloves for the job. For example: heavy-duty rubber gloves for concrete work, welding gloves for welding, or insulated gloves and sleeves when exposed to electrical hazards.

Protective gloves should be inspected before each use to ensure that they are not torn, punctured or made ineffective in any way.

- A visual inspection will help detect cuts or tears but a more thorough inspection by filling the gloves with water and tightly rolling the cuff towards the fingers will help reveal any pinhole leaks.
- Gloves that are discolored or stiff may also indicate deficiencies caused by excessive use or degradation from chemical exposure.
- Any gloves with impaired protective ability should be discarded and replaced.

Discussion

How do you know it's time to replace your gloves?

What should you do if you don't have adequate hand protection for the task?