UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I® MĀNOA Environmental Health & Safety Office

www.hawaii.edu/ehso/lab

Gloves - Selection and Compatibility[1]

Gloves are one component of the personal protective equipment ensemble when working with chemicals. The Material Safety Data Sheet is usually the best place to find recommendations for glove selection for a particular chemical. If the MSDS does not provide any recommendations, the glove manufacturer's test data may provide the information.
Do not use the gloves until you review the glove compatibility chart from the glove manufacturer that you select. If you cannot find the compatibility chart, please contact the EHSO at labsafe@hawaii.edu for assistance.
Below are several internet links for chemical compatibility guides of the larger glove manufacturers.

MAPA
North
Ansell
Best Glove
Microflex

Key points to remember for proper glove use:

- Gloves are tested under controlled laboratory conditions with one chemical at one temperature
- All materials are permeable and degrade
- There are no universal barriers
- Chemical resistance varies with the glove's material and thickness
- Permeation varies with the chemical's concentration, temperature, and mixture's components
- Inspect gloves prior to use for cracks, tears, damage, deterioration, dirt, or discoloration
- Continually inspect gloves during use
- Change gloves at recommended time intervals
- Wash hands and gloves prior to removal and disposal
- **Never reuse single-use disposable gloves**
- Do not wear gloves outside lab area

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[1]Reference: *Gloves -Selection and Compatibility*, Wright State University, 2011 http://www.wright.edu/administration/ehs/documents/Gloves-1.pdf