

Personal Protective Equipment: Hands

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Use with...
Butyl rubber	Extended contact is possible	Poor against hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents and has impaired dexterity	Polar organics (e.g., glycol, ethers, ketones, esters)
Neoprene	Extended contact is possible, has medium chemical resistance, has medium physical properties, and does not support combustion	Poor for halogenated and aromatic hydrocarbons and has impaired dexterity	Acids, bases, alcohols, fuels, peroxides, hydrocarbons, and phenols
Nitrile	Has excellent physical properties and dexterity	Cannot be used with water or water-based solutions and is poor against light alcohols (e.g., methanol, ethanol)	Oils, greases, petroleum products, some acids and bases, and is fair against toluene
Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)	Resists a very broad range of organics, has good physical properties, and are specific-use glove	Incidental contact only and is poor against benzene, methylene chloride, and many ketones	Aliphatics, aromatics, chlorinated solvents, ketones (except acetone), esters, and ethers
Fluoro-elastomer (Viton)	Extended contact is possible, good for organic solvents, has good resistance to cuts and abrasions	Has poor physical properties and is poor against some ketones, esters, and amines	Aromatics, chlorinated solvents, aliphatics and alcohols
Norfoil	Extended contact is possible and has excellent chemical resistance	Has a poor fit, easily punctures, has a poor grip, and is stiff	Most hazardous chemicals

Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety ehs@sjsu.edu