



Material Comparison Guide: Nitrile vs. Latex vs. Vinyl Gloves

This document outlines the core differences, strengths, and ideal use cases for nitrile, latex, and vinyl gloves to assist in selecting the correct protective barrier for your specific application.

Quick Reference Comparison



Feature	Nitrile	Latex	Vinyl
Material Base	Synthetic rubber	Natural rubber	PVC (Synthetic plastic)
Puncture Resistance	High	Moderate	Low
Chemical Resistance	Excellent (Oils/solvents)	Moderate (Degrades in oil)	Poor
Allergy Risk	None (Hypoallergenic)	High (Natural proteins)	None
Fit & Dexterity	High (Molds to hand)	Maximum (Second-skin feel)	Low (Loose/stiff)
Cost Profile	Mid-to-High	Moderate	Low

Nitrile Gloves

Nitrile gloves are manufactured using synthetic rubber, making them an excellent premium alternative to natural rubber.

Key Advantages:

- **Puncture and Tear Resistance:** Offers the highest level of physical durability against sharp objects.
- **Chemical Protection:** Highly resistant to petroleum-based products, oils, and hazardous solvents.
- **Hypoallergenic:** Contains no natural rubber latex proteins, eliminating the risk of type I allergic reactions.
- **Primary Applications:** Medical and clinical environments, automotive repair, chemical handling, tattoo artistry, and manufacturing.



Note: Biodegradable Nitrile Gloves available, as well as a wide range of other glove options. **Talk to us now.**

Latex Gloves

Latex gloves are made from natural rubber latex and have long been the gold standard for tactile sensitivity.

Key Advantages:

- **Maximum Tactile Sensitivity:** Conforms perfectly to the hand, offering unmatched precision and fine motor control.
- **Elasticity and Comfort:** Stretches easily to reduce hand fatigue during extended wear.
- **Eco-Friendly:** Biodegradable because they are derived from natural plant sources.
- **Chemical Protection:** Moderate chemical and puncture resistance properties.
- **Primary Applications:** High-dexterity surgical and dental procedures, laboratory research, and cleanrooms.
- Potential for allergic reaction from natural latex if prolonged use or sensitive skin

Vinyl Gloves

Vinyl gloves are composed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and plasticisers, offering a loose-fitting, highly economical barrier.

Key Advantages:

- **Cost Efficiency:** Highly affordable to manufacture, making them ideal for high-turnover use.
- **Static Protection:** Inherently anti-static, which can be useful in specific handling environments.
- **Basic Contamination Barrier:** Safely prevents direct skin contact with non-hazardous substances.
- **Primary Applications:** Food preparation and service, light housekeeping, hair salons, and short-duration, low-risk commercial tasks.

Disposable Glove Comparison



Characteristics	Nitrile	Latex	Vinyl
Toughness and Durability	★★★★★	★★★	★
Puncture and tear Resistance	★★★★★	★★★	★
Sensitivity and Tactility	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Comfort and Dexterity	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Grip	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Latex Allergy Risk	★★★★★	★	★★★★★
Food Contact Safety	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Barrier Performance	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Chemical Resistance	★★★★★	★★	★
Resistance to Oil and Grease	★★★★★	★	★★

Rating: Poor ★ Good ★★★ Excellent ★★★★★

Approximate ratings are relative and for guidance only.