

Hand Protection 2020

Contents

Ready For The Task At Hand	2
Ergonomics as Hand Protection	4
Beyond Gloves: Seven Things to Do to Keep Your Hands Safe at Work.	6
Hand Injuries are Preventable! If only	8
Protecting Those Who Protect Us First . . .	11



Ready For The Task At Hand

Regardless of what industry you work in, your hands are used for almost all tasks. At Pyramex, we believe protecting your hands is important. That is why we are introducing two new gloves, the GL609C and the GL610C, that provide protection across a variety of workplaces and duties.

The GL609C and the GL610C are dipped gloves with a 13-gauge high-performance polyethylene fiber (HPPE) liner and sandy nitrile palm dip that provides excellent protection while still maintaining great comfort and dexterity. The sandy nitrile dip provides exceptional grip in dry, wet, and oily conditions. The HPPE liner helps to reduce

pressure points and discomfort from wearing the glove for extended periods of time. To better protect against impact and abrasion injuries, both gloves also have Thermoplastic Rubber (TPR) on the back of the hand.

The GL610C provides similar protection with a few added benefits. The hook and loop wrist closure makes the glove easier to get off and on and allows the user to adjust the tightness once the glove is on their hand. With the rise in technology use in the workplace, the additional touchscreen feature also enables the wearer to use a smart device without removing their gloves.

Both gloves meet ANSI/ISEA 105:2016 Cut Level A5 and Abrasion Level 4, as well as ANSI/ISEA 138 Impact Level 2. The GL609C also meets ANSI/ISEA 105:2016 Puncture Level 3, while the GL610C meets ANSI/ISEA 105:2016 Puncture Level 4.

While these two gloves can be used for almost any job, they have proved beneficial in applications such as automotive, mining, glass handling, oil and gas, steel handling and fabrication, HVAC, warehousing, recycling, manufacturing, and construction.

Again, protecting your hands is the most important task at hand. Make sure the gloves fit your hands and that you are using the proper glove for the job to be performed. Call Pyramex and speak to a sales rep that covers your market if assistance is needed.

Pyramex delivers high-quality safety products through its innovative and stylish product lines. The company



designs and manufactures various personal protective equipment from eye, head, hand, welding, cooling and hearing protection to hi-vis workwear, respirators and ergonomic gear. Founded in 1991, Pyramex has more than 2,500 distributors in over 60 countries and is committed to investing countless hours to research, design and testing to ensure Pyramex products meet the highest safety standards. To learn more about Pyramex, go to www.Pyramex.com.



PYRAMEX

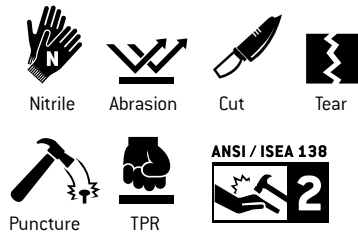
READY FOR THE TASK AT HAND



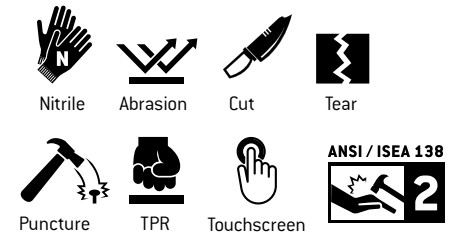
Introducing two new gloves that provide protection
across a variety of workplaces and duties.



GL609C



GL610C



PYRAMEX®

THERE IS MORE TO SEE AT PYRAMEX.COM

Ergonomics as Hand Protection

By: **Tracy Hansen**, Contributor

When we think of [hand protection](#) we often think of gloves: gloves with myriad materials and surfaces and flex to protect working hands on the job. But, hand protection is more than what you put over the hands; it is also how you use them. If you are not working smartly; if you are not considering tools and workflows as a part of the analysis—hands are still at risk. [Ergonomic](#) considerations are just as important as glove considerations.

You do not need to go far to find proof. According to [OSHA](#), work-related musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs) are the most frequent cause of lost or restricted work time. [The Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports that MSD cases account for 33 % of all worker injury and illness cases. MSDs are a group of repetitive task-related injuries with familiar names, like carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis or muscle/tendon strain.

These are afflictions you probably would not think much about until you experience an MSD personally. This kind of injury can impact your life, your work productivity and even prevent you from playing favorite sports. For workers in many fields, it can mean time away from work and have an impact on livelihood.

DIRECT & INDIRECT COSTS OF MSDS

For businesses, the impact of an MSD is no less dire. According to the Northeast Business Group on Health, employers spend more on MSDs directly than any other condition. The indirect costs of MSDs are even higher and include absenteeism, disability claims, overuse or misuse of pharmaceuticals, and behavioral health treatment. By some estimates, this cost is in excess of \$100 billion/year.

To address the consequences of MSDs, preventative measures are most essential. Get out in front of the

problem before it happens. This is because once an injury occurs, the options for treatment—both surgical and non-surgical—have varying degrees of success. In both cases, it may take months or even years of treatment to arrive at an acceptable outcome.

It is important for organizations to actively evaluate tools and tasks in the work environment to help prevent MSDs. When safer alternatives are prioritized, it reduces costs; reduces worker downtime; and helps to prevent the onset of life-changing injuries.

EVALUATE TASKS

One of the simplest and most impactful measures to consider is an evaluation of repetitive tasks. The improper use of a mouse and keyboard is a well-known cause of hand strain and carpal tunnel syndrome. Instead of awkward angles and locations, make sure keyboards and workstations are situated properly for the task and the workflow.

Other key questions to ask: How often is the workstation needed? Is it shared between workers? At what height is it most easily accessed and used by the worker? Is typing so constant that an ergonomic keyboard with raised center section is required? Does a mouse or trackpad make the most sense in the working environment? Should the workstation be ditched



altogether, in favor of a mobile smart phone device in the pocket of the worker? Look at the issue from every angle—there might be more than one obvious fix.

Repetitive strain in materials handling is another common source of injury. Much is written about best practices for the lifting and gripping of large, heavy objects. But, even the ergonomics of small tools can be a challenge. A perfect example of this: using a traditional, handheld barcode scanner in the process of moving goods. With each item in each step of a typical process, the scanner is lifted and gripped to capture a scan. An ultralight, wearable barcode scanner is a great alternative because, just like wearing a watch, it's always at arm length when you need it. There's nothing additional to reach for, nor to grip, nor to lift.

In our own study of warehouse workers, we discovered that simply wearing a lightweight barcode scanner saved each worker from lifting approximately 1.5



tons per shift. That's equivalent to the weight of a small car! It also prevented the disruption of workflow by having to reach for a handheld scanner.

When frontline workers can move more naturally through their daily work operations, managers can expect fewer injuries and higher productivity. Among the top things managers can do is to partner with frontline workers in problem solving for ergonomics—to select the right tools and tactics to make the job safer. By fostering a culture of safety and ensuring a free-flowing environment of exchange and communication, you can expect a reduction in absences, worker compensation claims and employee turnover.

MSD-related injuries might be less visible than other kinds of hand injuries, but they're no less important. In any evaluation of hand protection equipment, don't neglect to consider the whole human in the process. WMHS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tracy Hansen is President of North America and Global CMO for [ProGlove](#), a leader in ergonomic, wearable devices for industry. She brings more than two decades of strategic brand-building experience at startups, scale-ups and Fortune 500 firms to the role. She is a student of “disruptive innovation,” championing ideas that stretch boundaries, mobilize teams and deliver business breakthroughs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- <https://www.proglove.com>
- <http://www.workplacepub.com/ppe/hand/beyond-gloves-seven-things-to-do-to-keep-your-hands-safe-at-work-2/>
- https://www.humanscale.com/userfiles/file/return-on-investment_03272015.pdf
- <https://ergoweb.com/ergonomics-roi-how-to-document-ergonomics-related-improvements-reprint/>
- <https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/ergonomics/handtools/tooldesign.html>
- <https://www.ehstoday.com/ppe/hand-protection/article/21916874/hand-safety-in-simple-steps>
- <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/>
- https://www.proglove.com/blog/warehouse/you_might_be_lifting_the_weight_of_a_compact_car/

Beyond Gloves: Seven Things to Do to Keep Your Hands Safe at Work

By: **Nikolas Jakubinek**, Contributor

This article originally appeared on [Safepedia.com](https://www.safepedia.com). It has been republished here with permission.

Young electrician technician wearing protective gloves and helmet in the hands isolated on white background. Your hands are used in just about every facet of your work and daily life. But they're also one of the most exposed and vulnerable parts of your body.

Whether you spend all day writing reports and e-mails, or whether you handle materials and use construction tools after punching the clock, keeping your hands safe should be a priority.

The most obvious way to protect your hands is with the right PPE. Every worker engaged in hazardous work should wear safety gloves suitable for the job. But gloves are your last line of defense and a lot of other measures should be in place to keep your hands safe.

In this article, we'll go over seven important things you can do to keep your hands safe at work.

1. CONDUCT A HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND JOB-SAFETY ANALYSIS

Conducting a hazard assessment is the first step in identifying tasks that put our hands in danger. It allows us to take the time to review equipment for pinch points; note material that may be jagged or become splintered; identify extremely hot and cold surfaces; and list potential sources of chemical exposure.

Once it's completed, the hazard assessment should be communicated to the exposed workers on an annual and intermittent basis, in order to spread awareness and help cultivate safety culture.

A job-safety analysis (JSA) is the next step in communicating hazards to workers. These are often conducted by a foreman or supervisor, who lists each task and provides a step-by-step process to safely execute it. The JSA should provide a methodical means to eliminate or mitigate exposure to hazards and identify when, which and where proper safety gloves shall be worn.

The JSA should be communicated and reviewed before starting each new task and intermittently after that. Workers should be encouraged to assist and comment on the JSA, as their feedback is invaluable in the creation and maintenance of this living document.

2. IMPLEMENT ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Before donning safety gloves, we should ask ourselves if we can eliminate the hazards completely. If it's not possible to eliminate all hazards, then we should consider whether engineering controls could be implemented. These controls help us reduce exposure by modifying the processes, equipment and materials involved in the work.

One example of this is machine guarding. A machine guard is a protective barrier to prevent workers from making contact with hazardous energies created by moving machinery.

3. MITIGATE ERGONOMIC RISKS

Ergonomic risks are often overlooked because their negative effects are not immediate. But ergonomic and repetitive strain injuries are far more common than many might suspect.



Workers who regularly repeat tasks; use forceful exertion; or are exposed to vibration and sustained awkward positions are at risk to ergonomic injuries.

Enlist an ergonomic specialist to assess your workplace and help you implement a repetitive strain prevention program.

4. PROPER TOOL USE AND CARE

A young carpenter using a circular saw to cut through wood on his workbench, with sawdust flying out of the saw. All tools should be inspected prior to use and serviced regularly; and the workers using them should receive formal training on their proper use. Refer to owner's and operator's manuals to determine maintenance and servicing intervals.



Generally, the responsibility for inspection lies with the supervisor. However, workers who use tools and equipment daily should also inspect them before starting their work. As soon as any problems are discovered, the tool must be removed from use and tagged. The tag should read something along the lines of "Defective—Do Not Use."

The misuse of tools and equipment is a frequent cause of injuries. It's often assumed that everyone knows how to use common hand tools, but this assumption can lead to injury.

Employers and supervisors have a responsibility to ensure that all workers are trained and competent in the use of the tools and equipment in their workplace. Training programs can be created internally and reviewed periodically throughout the year. They can also be communicated to new hires during orientation. Companies can also look to external training providers to assist then in delivering training to their employees.

The training program should pay close consideration to all equipment and tools, no matter how mundane the task. Every employee, no matter how much experience or seniority they have, should be required to participate. This training is an opportunity to make sure that fundamental safe practices are fresh in everyone's minds.

5. SAFETY DATA SHEETS

To help protect against exposure, employers must inform workers of the specific chemicals used in the workplace and provide access to the corresponding safety data sheets.

Employers and safety committees should make a list of controlled products onsite available to employees. The list should be reviewed and updated as new products come in or old ones exit.

The safety committee and supervisor should review the safety data sheets and draft a list of PPE required to safely handle the products.

6. FOSTER A SAFETY CULTURE

A successful health and safety program begins with a positive safety culture. Every company should encourage and promote safety from the moment a worker starts their shift right until the moment they clock out at the end of the day.

Employees respond well to a positive safety culture and well-communicated policies and programs. They are more apt to follow safe work procedures; use the PPE supplied; and report hazards to their supervisors.

With a positive safety culture, every employee—both new and seasoned—knows that safety in their workplace truly is number one. Supervisors and management should be encouraged to attend the same safety training as their workers, in order to lead by example and communicate the value of these initiatives.

7. ENSURE PROPER HOUSEKEEPING

Construction debris tends to be irregular in shape and hard to handle. It can also be full of sharp edges. Making sure it gets cleared away helps prevent injuries.

A low standard for housekeeping can wear down the morale of workers, but it can also lead to cluttered pathways impeding material handling equipment and, thus, increasing the need for manual handling.

Employers should provide ample disposal systems for the various types of debris created over the course of a regular work day. Materials should have nails, screws and sharp edges bent over or removed, and employers should promote daily post-work, clean-up tasks.

CONCLUSION

Wearing gloves that give your hands ample protection is essential to keeping them safe. But it's not enough. By looking beyond the glove and implementing various other measures to mitigate risks, you can be confident that you or your employees will make it through the day with their hands unharmed.

Hand Injuries are Preventable! If only...

By: **Donald F. Groce**, Contributor

Even after many years, a hand injury can be life-changing. In one quick, distracted instant, a slip of the untrained hand on a first job left permanent damage. A person might never see his/her hand again without seeing the nasty scar, which is an ever-present reminder of how dangerous improper handling of a razor box cutter can be.

Even though it certainly never happened again, it should not have happened the first time. Scars are reminders of past mistakes or accidents. It's easy to say: "If only, I had been more careful." The trauma of the injury, coupled with the embarrassment of one's own carelessness, caused damage that was more than skin-deep. Some of the most lasting lessons in hand protection can be learned the hard way—from a frightening injury.

Most any cut-resistant glove on the hand opposite from the razor-wielding hand could have lessened or even prevented this injury. Proper training of new employees is essential every time there is a potential hazard to the hands.

Once a worker has been injured on the job or at home, they tend to approach almost every job or do-it-yourself task more carefully, with maybe a little healthy fear of the potential hazards to be encountered. The question they should ask themselves is "How can I keep my hands from being injured doing this task?"

HAND HAZARDS:

What are the hazards for the situation? Some of the questions you may ask include:

1. Are there sharp objects that may cut my hands?

2. Are there hot or cold objects that could cause a burn to my hands?

3. Is there chance of an arc flash or flame?

4. If the object I am handling is wet or oily, how can I keep from dropping it to avoid breaking the object or injuring my lower extremities?

5. Could there be a needle in some unseen place, which could puncture my hands; and could it be

contaminated with an infectious body fluid or illicit toxic drug?

6. Is there a chance my hands will be exposed to a caustic, corrosive or toxic chemical?

7. Are there biological agents or allergens that may cause a rash or allergic reaction on contact?

It is extremely important to protect your hands every time you encounter a risk.



The good news is that, every year, new advances in hand protection are made, and new gloves enter the marketplace. With such a variety of hand protection options, most hand injuries are completely preventable, if the individual wears the proper PPE. Employers are required by OSHA to provide the correct PPE based on a written hazard assessment. Proper training is also required by OSHA.

CUT-RESISTANT GLOVES:

Cut-resistant gloves normally consist of a knitted shell or liner made from a material designed to provide cut resistance. These cut-resistant shells can be uncoated or coated with polymer that provides grip and abrasion resistance.

The two predominant base materials used in most cut-resistant gloves are almost always based on aramid fiber or high-performance polyethylene extruded (HPPE) yarns. These base yarns have an inherent strength of their own. Composite materials can be added to these base materials to provide even higher cut resistance or comfort. These composite materials, such as stainless steel, ceramic, fiberglass, spandex, nylon or carbon yarn, enhance the strength of the base aramid and HPPE yarns.

The differences in protection offered by cut-resistant gloves are normally designated by their ANSI Cut Resistance Performance Levels, as outlined in the ANSI/ISEA 105-2016 American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification. Until 2016, there were five ANSI Cut Levels. There are now nine ANSI Cut Resistant Glove ratings. The cut levels are measured on a specially designed piece of laboratory equipment, the tomodynamometer, referred to as the TDM-100. The machine measures the distance or blade travel in millimeters until cut-through occurs, when a certain

number of grams are applied to a special razor blade moving at constant speed across the test material. The test data from at least 15 different cuts with different weights placed on the razor blades is used to calculate the number of grams, where a 20mm blade travel results in a cut-through. From this number, where a 20mm blade travel is calculated, the Cut Resistance Performance Level is assigned.

CONTACT HEAT:

When choosing a glove for handling hot objects, American ANSI Ratings and European EN Ratings are designed to measure how quickly the temperature rises inside a glove when the outside is in contact with heat. For instance, in the EN Test Method, the performance levels are Level 1-4 heat levels with Level 1 of 100°C (212°F); Level 2 of 250°C (482°F); Level 3 of 350°C (662°F); or Level 4 of 500°C (932°F). To pass a certain level, it must take > 15 seconds for the inside temperature to rise 10°C (50°F) above room temperature. It is important to remember that polymer coatings on gloves may melt and stick to hot surfaces at temperatures at or above Level 2 (482°F) or Level 3 (662°F).

ARC FLASH OR FLAME RESISTANCE:

Some materials are not flame resistant. For high heat or arc flash, HPPE or UHMWPE (polyethylene based) cut-resistant gloves are not recommended, since the polyethylene will melt. Aramid fiber-based materials, such as Kevlar® or Aralene®, normally have high melting points (> 900°F) and are best suited for high temperatures and for arc flash. Polymer coatings have different melt temperatures and flammability. Natural rubber, nitrile and PVC are not flame resistant and will continue to burn, even after the flame source has been removed. Neoprene is much better and does not support a flame.

PUNCTURE RESISTANCE:

In the past, all puncture-resistance testing was done with a 1mm stylus, not a needle. The stylus was much more like a very large thick nail. Even though a glove scored high for puncture resistance to a nail-like object, most puncture-resistance concerns were expressed because of the concern about needle sticks. The latest version of the ANSI American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification includes performance rating criteria for both hypodermic needles (25-gauge) and non-hypodermic needle puncture resistance.

NEEDLE STICK PROTECTION:

Recent advances and development of amazingly innovative new materials, such as Alycore®, answers the need for protection from needle stick injuries. Alycore provides ANSI Level 5 performance against hypodermic needle puncture resistance and provides ANSI Level A9 Cut Resistance protection, the highest level.

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE:

Besides the protection from the physical hazards listed above, many jobs have chemical hazards.

For many years, the same thermoplastic or elastomeric polymers have been used to make most of the commonly used chemical-resistant gloves. These polymers include polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), latex, Neoprene® and nitrile (NBR), along with special polymers like Butyl® rubber and Viton® fluoroelastomer. Gloves made from these polymers are very specific in providing protection from exposure to certain chemicals and classes of chemicals.

Each polymer has specific strengths and weaknesses in protection from exposure to different classes of chemicals. In some instances, the protection is excellent against a certain chemical class and, in other

chemical classes, the protection is extremely poor or not recommended. For example, Neoprene has excellent resistance to almost every mineral acid and carboxylic acid. Nitrile has excellent chemical resistance to fuels, such as kerosene and straight-chain aliphatic hydrocarbons like hexane, but performs very poorly against ketones like acetone and MEK. Viton is an extremely expensive glove that has excellent protection from exposure to aromatic hydrocarbons like benzene, toluene or xylene, but has extremely poor protection from ketones, such as acetone or MEK. Butyl has excellent protection from exposure to ketones (acetone, MEK and MIBK), but is very poor against fuels and hydrocarbons. PVA has excellent protection to methylene chloride and other chlorinated hydrocarbons; or ketones, like acetone and MEK, and aromatic hydrocarbons like benzene, toluene and xylene, but it has poor protection from alcohols (i.e., isopropanol or methanol) or water-based chemicals, like mineral acids and caustics.

Film laminate gloves are made from a thin, flat film with ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH) that is similar to PVA, sandwiched between layers of polyethylene. These gloves offer excellent protection from almost every chemical, but they are ill-fitting and difficult to wear, except as a liner.

The latest advancement in chemical-resistant gloves is a PVA/nitrile hybrid glove that combines the protection of PVA with the protection from water-based chemicals offered by nitrile. This glove is entering the market at an excellent price, much lower than Butyl and Viton. Its chemical resistance solves a lot of issues for people looking for the best protection from difficult chemicals, like methylene chloride, benzene and MEK, in a comfortable-fitting glove.

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CLANDESTINE DRUG EXPOSURE:

Many jobs, such as border patrol, law enforcement, drug enforcement agencies or first responders face a myriad of hazards that are sometimes unthinkable. One example is the current opioid crisis, which requires special precautions for those officials who may encounter Fentanyl powders, pills or clandestine laboratories.

The most dangerous route of exposure to opioids is inhalation of the powders, where 100% of what is inhaled is immediately absorbed. Masks should always be worn to keep powders from being inhaled.

Fentanyl can also be absorbed through intact skin. Although the dermal route is not quite as dangerous as inhalation, your skin must also be protected. The Interagency Board for Emergency Preparedness (IAB), in Washington, DC, has addressed the PPE recommended for the hazard of exposure to Fentanyl: “Use of proper personal protective equipment and standard safe work practices to prevent inhalation of powders and to minimize direct skin contact with residues should be instituted as soon as the potential presence of such materials is suspected.”

The board recommends gloves for Fentanyl exposure and states that nitrile single-use examination gloves should always be worn. Although the IAB does not mention double-gloving, the MSDS from Pfizer for Fentanyl Citrate does recommend double-gloving with disposable nitrile gloves.

Hazards to the hands may include lacerations, nail or needle punctures; burns from heat or cold; or exposure to biological or chemical agents, including opioids such as Fentanyl. There are hand-protection options,

including existing and new products, that have been developed and designed to protect from all of these.

If there is an obvious hazard present that may injure your hands, do not attempt to do the work without proper hand protection. Your hands are too important and the risk is too great!

Hopefully, you will never say, “If only...”

About the Author: Don F. Groce is Chemical/Disposable Product Manager for Global Glove and Safety.

Protecting Those Who Protect Us First

By: **Bob Gaither**, Contributor

As the global demand for [PPE](#) continues to increase during the coronavirus pandemic, we must all look for ways to ensure that there are necessary resources available for the essential workers who require it the most—chiefly those in mission-critical healthcare positions. With the need for single-use nitrile and latex gloves increasing, and personnel movement restrictions decreasing production, it is anticipated that the current shortage will last into 2021.

It is important that we reserve nitrile and latex single-use gloves for healthcare personnel and first responders, while identifying appropriate alternatives for the general population and those with less intensive PPE requirements. Thermoplastic Elastomer (TPE) gloves can be a quality alternative, as they have several attributes that make them an ideal substitute for hand protection in everyday settings. In particular, TPE gloves combine high ease-of-use and broad chemical resistance into an affordable, recyclable product that is comfortable for the wearer.

The following features make TPE gloves a viable alternative during this global glove shortage.

MATERIAL

TPE is a synthetic material that has rubber-like properties—particularly high flexibility and broad-spectrum chemical resistance. The material has great



Thermoplastic Elastomer (TPE) is a synthetic material that has rubber-like properties and can be used for everyday hand protection, thus helping save nitrile and latex gloves for frontline mission-critical workers. (photo courtesy SW Safety)

stretching ability, low modulus and good recovery to its original shape that make it comfortable for the wearer. While TPE has similar chemical resistance properties to natural rubber latex, the gloves are usually lighter in weight and are not worn for jobs that involve high mechanical risks.

However, there are multi-layer TPE gloves available for high-risk chemical environments. Finally, because of the chemical-resistance properties of TPE, the gloves can be exposed to hand sanitizers to extend their use. SW has performed tests with 75 % alcohol sanitizer, as well as 80 % ethyl alcohol hand sanitizer.

WEARABILITY

TPE gloves are easy to don and doff—while providing high wearer comfort and dexterity. Once slipped on, the pliable material warms to the touch and conforms to the shape of the hand for a comfortable fit. The open cuff makes them ideal for workers who need to frequently change and remove gloves in between tasks. The thin, highly flexible material makes the TPE gloves ideal for activities that require dexterity over long periods of time, such as food preparation. These attributes make them a perfect fit for anyone who requires light-duty hand protection on a daily basis.

MANUFACTURING

The production process allows for clean and economical products. TPE gloves are produced by the cut-and-seal process, which allows for high volumes to be made quickly at a relatively low cost. The manufacturing process uses few chemicals, so the gloves are clean and powder-free, and they do not contain any residual allergens. This clean manufacturing process provides wearers, who may typically have reactions to hand protection, with a product that meets their needs. TPE gloves are also environmentally friendly, as the plastic product can be recycled.

APPLICATIONS

The comfort, low cost and broad-spectrum chemical resistance of TPE gloves allow them to be used in a variety of applications. It makes them ideal for protection in

low mechanical-risk environments, such as retail, beauty, housekeeping, cleaning, painting and home services.

They are also ideal for food service and food preparation. Because of their clean manufacturing process, TPE products are [FDA](#) approved for food contact. They provide workers the high dexterity needed in food prep and production—and they are typically available in a variety of colors, to address cross-contamination requirements (e.g., seafood/pink, produce/green, red/red meat, blue/seafood, yellow/poultry).

The lightweight nature of TPE gloves and broad chemical-resistance properties of the material make them appropriate in many applications as an under-glove. They can be used under a knit-dipped, mechanical protection glove that involves wearer contact with liquids that can harm skin. Because of their low cost and lightweight nature, they are also used under nitrile and latex, reusable chemical-resistant gloves to enhance chemical protection. In these critical environments, wearing TPE gloves as an under-glove can extend glove life; keep workers protected; and provide an extra sense of reassurance.

It is the sum of these factors that make TPE gloves an ideal alternative to nitrile and latex single-use products. From their broad chemical-resistance properties to clean manufacturing process, these economical gloves go a long way in providing light-duty hand protection in a wide variety of applications—as a primary glove for dexterity or as an under-glove in higher risk environments.

With [COVID-19](#) impacting the global supply of single-use gloves, SW Safety recommends we all seek ways to reserve nitrile and latex gloves for frontline mission-critical workers and to use TPE gloves for everyday hand protection. Now is the time for everyone to lend a hand to the global effort in keeping the world a safer, healthier, and better protected place.

About the Author: Bob Gaither is Chief Commercial Officer at SW Safety.

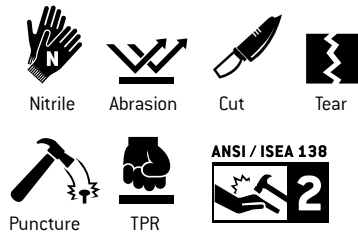
READY FOR THE TASK AT HAND



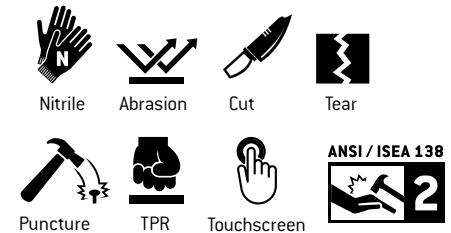
Introducing two new gloves that provide protection
across a variety of workplaces and duties.



GL609C



GL610C



PYRAMEX®

THERE IS MORE TO SEE AT PYRAMEX.COM

THANKS TO
OUR SPONSOR



An RDG Media Inc. Publication
PO Box 893 Fort Dodge, IA 50501
www.workplacepub.com