

# Safety Beyond Products Hand protection in the new normal

## Protecting your team is your priority, every day.

Securing the right safety products and PPE has become challenging during the ongoing pandemic supply is tight for the foreseeable future, particularly in the disposable glove category, while new state and company requirements for hand protection have been implemented. Much of the available disposable glove inventory is allocated for frontline healthcare workers while other industries struggle to obtain appropriate hand protection for their teams.

#### **Questions you should ask**



Does the job at hand require the use of disposable gloves or are you utilizing for COVID-19 purposes?

A: For the job at hand, Airgas will work closely with you to determine your hand protection needs to help keep your employees safe while they work.



#### Supply chain challenges for disposable gloves

- Global demand for disposable gloves has tripled since March 2020
- Limited manufacturing capacity with long lead times needed to expand production
- Costs associated with disposable gloves continue to rise due to raw material shortages and increased associated labor (for example, additional PPE and sanitation measures implemented at production plants).
- Gloves are under allocation. You will need to allocate internally with your team as well.



For COVID-19 related glove usage, are there other options available instead of single-use gloves for your workplace?

A: There are suitable and safe reusable glove alternatives that can help protect your team.



#### Did you know?

Gloves do not guarantee protection against COVID-19 and disposable gloves still need to be washed (just like your hands) or disposed of between interactions.

### Consider alternatives for disposable gloves to protect your team

We are ready now to help you navigate the current glove allocation and help identify the right glove style to safely protect your team and maintain production continuity.

The Airgas team of safety experts—including QSSP- and OSHA 30-certified safety specialists and our Airgas Total Access® elite customer service team—have years of experience evaluating and identifying workplace hazards and providing efficient and safe solutions that help you minimize risk.

#### How to get started

- Review glove use and applications at your facility by performing a glove survey with your Airgas Safety Specialist.
- Reusable gloves, backed by an established sanitation process at your own facility, may be a viable, safe and economical alternative. If you are considering an adapted approach to hand protection, first please see WHO guidelines that have been developed to assess PPE performance and protective abilities after various cleaning methods. Below are four types of cleaning methods:



- The cost of disposable gloves is rising as supply and raw material shortages continue. According to PIP, you can even save up to 84% by implementing a reusable glove program.
- Below are reusable hand protection alternatives—your Airgas safety expert can help you identify all hazards and recommend the best glove style to meet all your safety requirements.



To connect with an Airgas safety specialist to evaluate glove options or to receive a glove assessment at your current worksite, contact us at 855.625.5285

REUSABLE GLOVE ALTERNATIVES		North Control of Contr	
Glove type	Chemical-resistant	General purpose, coated	Cut-resistant, coated
Materials of construction	<ul> <li>Unsupported nitrile or</li> <li>Natural rubber latex</li> </ul>	Polyurethane, nitrile and natural rubber latex coatings on seamless knit nylon and polyester liners	Polyurethane, nitrile and natural rubber latex coatings on seamless knit aramid and HPPE liners
Advantages over disposable	<ul> <li>Enhanced durability against mechanical hazards (abrasion, snags, puncture)</li> <li>Can be sterilized, sanitized disinfected</li> <li>Fully reusable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Enhanced durability against mechanical hazards</li> <li>Improved fit and comfort</li> <li>Can be laundered</li> <li>Extended wear life</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Enhanced durability against cuts and other mechanical hazards</li> <li>Improved fit and comfort</li> <li>Can be laundered</li> <li>Longer wear cycles</li> </ul>

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