

TABLE 3 - Glove Types and Indications

The following table provides information on glove types and indications for commercially available glove materials.*

Glove	Indication	Comment	Material	Attributes†
Patient examination gloves	Patient care, examinations, other nonsurgical procedures involving contact with mucous membranes, and laboratory procedures	Medical device regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Nonsterile and sterile single-use disposable. Use for one patient and discard appropriately.	Natural-rubber latex (NRL) Nitrile Nitrile and chloroprene (neoprene) blends Nitrile & NRL blends Butadiene methyl methacrylate Polyvinyl chloride (PVC, vinyl) Polyurethane Styrene-based copolymer	1, 2 2, 3 2, 3 1, 2, 3 2, 3 4 4 4, 5
Surgeon's gloves	Surgical procedures	Medical device regulated by the FDA. Sterile and single-use disposable Use for one patient and discard appropriately	NRL Nitrile Chloroprene (neoprene) NRL and nitrile or chloroprene blends Synthetic polyisoprene	1, 2 2, 3 2, 3 2, 3 2
Nonmedical gloves	Housekeeping procedures (e.g., cleaning and disinfection) Handling contaminated sharps or chemicals Not for use during patient care‡	Not a medical device regulated by the FDA Commonly referred to as utility, industrial, or general purpose gloves. Should be puncture- or chemical-resistant, depending on the task Latexgloves do not provide adequate chemical protection Sanitize after use	Styrene-based copolymer Polyurethane NRL and nitrile or chloroprene blends Chloroprene (neoprene) Nitrile Butyl rubber Fluoroelastomer Polyethylene and ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer	4, 5 4 2, 3 2, 3 2, 3 2, 3 3, 4, 6 3, 4, 6

* Physical properties can vary by material, manufacturer, and protein and chemical composition.

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1. Contains allergenic NRL proteins
2. Vulcanized rubber, contains allergenic rubber processing chemicals
3. Likely to have enhanced chemical or puncture resistance
4. Nonvulcanized and does not contain rubber processing chemicals
5. Inappropriate for use with methacrylates
6. Resistant to most methacrylates

§ Medical or dental gloves include patient-examination gloves and surgeon's (i.e., surgical) gloves and are medical devices regulated by the FDA.

Only FDA-cleared medical or dental patient-examination gloves and surgical gloves can be used for patient care.