

Porcelain Press

Issue 41, March 2004

Protect Your Hands— Wear the Proper Gloves

We often wear gloves to protect our hands from the cold, blisters, and even when washing dishes to prevent “dishpan hands.” Each kind of glove is made for a specific purpose and if you use the wrong glove you probably won’t get the kind of protection you were hoping for.

It is very important to know what hazard you are trying to protect against when selecting gloves. Liquids will quickly go through gloves made of porous material such as cotton or leather. Light cotton gloves or rubber dishwashing gloves aren’t much protection from the cold winds we often experience in the winter. But did you know that “rubber” gloves may not be adequate for keeping out all liquids?

There are many kinds of gloves designed for chemical protection, and not all are created equal. Some chemicals will penetrate or even dissolve certain kinds of gloves! Some chemicals can quickly injure your skin or penetrate the skin causing serious illness. It is important that you protect yourself from contact with those kinds of chemicals, and your gloves may be your last line of defense! The science and art of selecting gloves for chemical protection requires research into the glove manufacturers’ literature and a thorough understanding of the potential for exposure from the work to be conducted. (3H349) Your Safety & Health Representative is a key resource to help you make sure you have the right glove to protect you from hazards encountered in your work.

If you have questions about what kind of glove to wear for chemical protection at PNNL, your first action should be to consult the Chemical Process Permit (or other chemical use documentation) that governs the chemical work you are performing. If you can’t find a Chemical Process Permit (or procedure) specifying which glove model and manufacturer to use, contact your [Safety & Health Representative](#) for assistance.

Save Your Vision – Workplace Eye Health & Safety Month

In spite of safety programs and protective equipment, everyday more than 2,000 working people in the U.S. suffer an eye injury. Damage to the eyes is usually caused when something unexpected happens. It could be a sudden splash of caustic chemical or an airborne sliver of metal.

Workplace injuries are the leading cause of vision loss and blindness caused by an accident. Of the 2,000 injuries per day, up to 10 % will be disabling because of temporary or permanent vision loss. (3A160) Many of those injured say they didn’t think they needed to wear eye protection or were wearing inappropriate eyewear.

Eye health includes more than accident prevention. As more people use computers, eye fatigue and difficulty focusing have become common problems. To reduce eye fatigue, computer users should take frequent breaks and rearrange their workstations for easier access to their computers. Wearing proper glasses or contact lenses can often relieve eye fatigue.

Your eyesight is precious. Even a slight loss or impairment in your vision is a huge price to pay for a moment of carelessness.

Remember, standard prescription glasses or other glasses with impact-resistant lenses do not meet the ANSI standard for protection. Consult [SBMS](#) and follow the requirements listed in work related permits such as electrical work permits, chemical process permits, and laser use permits.



Increase
safety awareness—
start your next meeting
with a safety topic!