

# THE ULTIMATE BUYING GUIDE FOR COATED GLOVES

HOW TO CHOOSE THE  
PROPER GLOVES FOR  
YOUR APPLICATION.



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**A**ccording to Statistics Canada, hand injuries are among the most common workplace injuries in Canada, accounting for more than one-quarter (28%) of reported occupational injuries. Cuts, punctures, and lacerations continue to be among the leading types of workplace injuries affecting workers’ hands and fingers.

**Despite knowing they should wear hand protection, many people do not, because:**

- Gloves are too hot and make their hands sweaty
- Loss of fine motor coordination (can’t grab a nail from a pouch or thread a nut onto a bolt)
- Hard to use tools and machinery
- Forgot them in their vehicle, at home, in a toolbox, etc.
- They are uncomfortable and/or do not fit correctly
- No one else is wearing them, so they don’t want to look out of place

**Which issue is most common for your team?**



The Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations require that, where it is not feasible to eliminate a health or safety hazard in the workplace or reduce it to within safe limits, workers exposed to that hazard must use the prescribed protection equipment. The regulations further require that any protection equipment provided or used in the workplace be designed to protect the worker from the hazard in question. As a result, it is not enough to simply wear gloves—workers must wear hand protection that is appropriate for the hazard involved.

**Factors to Consider When Choosing The Right Glove**

The basic coated glove has 4 primary attributes that give the glove its particular performance and dictates the proper applications that it should be worn in: liner, coating, grip, and glove gauge (or the thickness) of the liner.

## ① LINER:

The liner is the base material the glove is made of and provides the strength of the glove. All coated gloves will have a tight fit, but some fabrics will stretch more than others and not conform to the hand over time and use. Others fit very tightly, like a second skin.

### The most popular types of material include:

#### COTTON

Strong, cool, light, with the ability to stretch for a tight & comfortable fit

#### DYNEEMA

Used for cut protection and will conform to the hand

#### NYLON/POLYESTER

Stretches, fits snugly, and will conform to the hand

#### KEVLAR

Used for heat and cut protection; may feel less elastic and loosen over extended wear



## ③ GRIP:

#### SMOOTH

- Available in a variety of polymers such as latex, nitrile, PVC, neoprene, and polyurethane
- Smooth coatings provide the wearer an excellent dry grip
- Liquids will not absorb into the coating, which will keep the hands dry

#### FOAM/MICRO FOAM

- Available in nitrile, latex, and PVC
- Designed to channel liquids away to allow better handling in wet and dirty conditions
- Provides excellent grip and tactile sensitivity in dry applications

#### CRINKLE

- Latex crinkle coatings are designed to channel away liquids to allow better handling in excessively wet and dirty conditions
- The thicker coating provides additional protection against cuts and punctures

#### SANDY

- Premium sandy finishes enhance abrasion- and cut-protection while providing an excellent grip in wet and rugged applications

## ② COATINGS:

### Common coatings and the advantages they give you:

#### NITRILE

- Excellent dry grip
- Thicker coating offers superior resistance to snags, cuts, punctures, and abrasions
- When enhanced with a foam coating, it offers very good grip when handling chemicals, including oils, petrochemicals, fuels, and most acids

#### LATEX

- Offers excellent grip in dry and wet conditions, including water-based liquids such as animal fats, caustics, acids, and alcohols
- Provides limited resistance to oils and petroleum-based products

#### POLYURETHANE (PU)

- Offers good abrasion resistance Excellent dry grip and a fair grip in slightly wet conditions
- PU properties allow for a very thin coating, which results in excellent tactile sensitivity and dexterity

## ④ GLOVE GAUGE:

Most gloves are offered in a range of 7- to 18-gauge, and the higher the gauge number, the thinner the glove material.

# CUT PROTECTION:

Cut resistance is a key glove performance attribute and is defined by standardized testing methods. There are two primary cut protection standards: ANSI/ISEA 105, used in the United States, and the European EN 388 standard. ANSI/ISEA 105 classifies gloves into nine cut resistance levels (A1–A9), allowing protection to be matched appropriately to specific tasks while maintaining proper fit, comfort, and dexterity.

Under the ANSI standard, cut resistance is measured using the ASTM F2992 (TDM 100) test method, in which a straight blade is drawn across the glove material under increasing force until cut through occurs. The amount of force required, measured in grams, determines the glove's cut level. Higher gram values indicate greater resistance to cutting hazards. Canadian safety programs and PPE selections rely on these established standards to ensure appropriate protection against cut hazards.





| ANSI CUT RATING | TYPICAL CUT HAZARD LEVEL      | CUT RESISTANCE (Grams of Force) | TYPICAL APPLICATIONS (EXAMPLES)  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>A1</b>       | Light cut hazards             | 200–499 grams                   | Material handling, light assembly, packaging, and general use                            |
| <b>A2</b>       | Light cut hazards             | 500–999 grams                   | Material handling, light manufacturing and assembly, & packaging                         |
| <b>A3</b>       | Light to moderate cut hazards | 1,000–1,499 grams               | Manufacturing, light glass handling, drywall work, & electrical and HVAC tasks           |
| <b>A4</b>       | Moderate cut hazards          | 1,500–2,199 grams               | Automotive assembly, metal fabrication and handling (task dependent), & food preparation |
| <b>A5</b>       | Moderate cut hazards          | 2,200–2,999 grams               | Metal fabrication and handling, recycling, & pulp and paper processing                   |
| <b>A6</b>       | Moderate to heavy cut hazards | 3,000–3,999 grams               | Heavy manufacturing, metal fabrication, & recycling operations                           |
| <b>A7</b>       | Heavy cut hazards             | 4,000–4,999 grams               | Heavy fabrication, glass manufacturing, stamping, & sharp metal handling                 |
| <b>A8</b>       | Heavy cut hazards             | 5,000–5,999 grams               | Scrap handling, heavy glass, & high-risk recycling and sorting                           |
| <b>A9</b>       | Heavy cut hazards             | 6,000+ grams                    | Extreme cut hazards & high-force sharp-edge exposure                                     |

# HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GLOVE?

Selecting the appropriate glove should begin with a **Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)** to identify the specific hazards present in each task. In many cases, this evaluation can be completed quickly through direct observation of work activities.

## In addition to task hazards, the physical work environment should be evaluated.

Consider:

- Exposure to heat or moisture
- The need for fine motor control or tactile sensitivity
- Use of tools, machinery, or touchscreens
- Contact with liquids such as water, oils, fuels, chemicals, or other substances
- Frequency of glove removal and replacement during the task

These environmental factors directly affect glove comfort, performance, and wearability.

Employee feedback should also be incorporated into the glove selection process. Fit, comfort, grip, and dexterity all influence whether gloves are worn consistently. Hand protection is highly individual, and while no single glove will meet every preference, selecting gloves that balance protection with usability increases the likelihood of regular use.

The objective of proper glove selection is to choose hand protection that matches the task and is worn consistently. Gloves that fit well, allow necessary dexterity, and provide appropriate protection are more likely to remain in use throughout the workday. Consistent glove use supports safer work practices, helps reduce hand injuries, and contributes to improved productivity and overall workplace safety.



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