

Migration from Nitrile to Latex Gloves



Art & Science of Amazing Protection

Due to current shortages in Nitrile raw materials, glove manufacturers are converting some production lines over from Nitrile to Latex, to ensure production capacity is kept running to a maximum and supply continues.

The recent usage of Nitrile is attributed to the concerns over allergic reactions to Latex. Although Type I reactions to the proteins contained in Natural rubber can be quite severe, the % of those effected is extremely small.

Most reactions fall into Type IV, which is a sensitivity or irritation rather than an allergic reaction and is often caused by the chemicals used in the formulation of all gloves, including Nitrile.

Modern manufacturing lines include a long leaching stage, which is more effective for the removal of extractable proteins (causing Type 1 allergy) and residual chemicals (Type IV skin sensitivity). [1]

As a result, many National Health Services and other industries are starting to re-accept Latex Gloves back into general use. It must be noted that 90% of all surgical gloves used today never migrated away from Latex.

As we move forward over the coming months, the swing of availability will shift from Nitrile toward more Latex availability. It would be prudent to start having these conversations with your customers now and prepare for the change.

[1] Huda, Nurul & Mohd, Amir-Hashim. (2014). *Leaching A Critical Factor in processing of rubber examination gloves.*



Latex Glove Solutions



Latex Glove Benefits

- Extremely soft and flexible, offering the highest comfort, flexibility & fit
- Protection against Bacteria, bloodborne pathogens & viruses
- Preferred glove for surgeons as latex is superior for sensitive work due to its high tactile sensitivity.
- Latex is highly resistant against alkalis, acids, ketones, alcohols, and other types of contaminants
- Superb grip in dry conditions

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