

CHARACTERISTIC	LATEX	NITRILE	VINYL
MATERIAL	Natural rubber latex from the rubber tree. Heven brazilliensis.	A synthetic copolymer made up from monomers of carboxylic acid, acrylonitrile and butadiene.	Polyvinyl chloride, a synthetic co-polymer.
BARRIER PROTECTION	Natural rubber latex has good film formation properties and the natural rubber latex film provides superior barrier protection.	Nitrile latex film exhibits comparable barrier protection as natural rubber if the film is continuous.	Vinyl gloves contain up to 40% plasticizers in order to provide the soft feel. As such, vinyl gloves are the least elastic among the three materials and provide the worst barrier protection.
STRENGTH	Superior.	Excellent strength and puncture resistance.	Limited.
ELASTICITY	High levels of elasticity, memory and elongation provide excellent fit.	Medium to High conforming to the user's hand with use.	Low to Medium, with moderate flexibility. Lower elongation properties result in a loose-fitting glove.
DURABILITY	High resistant to tear and puncture. Have superior dynamic durability.	High resistant to puncture and tear. Exhibits moderate dynamic durability.	Poor dynamic durability that declines with use, resulting in medium to high in-use failure rates.
CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (incidental exposure)	Depending on the type of chemicals in contact. Generally good.	Depending on the type of chemicals. Generally good to excellent.	Depending on chemicals. Generally poor.
GLUTARADEHYDE USE	Fair, AAMI recommended use for short-term, incidental contact only.	Excellent, recommended by AAMI.	Poor, not recommended by AAMI.
COMPATIBILITY WITH LOTIONS	Water-based only.	Water-based and petroleum-based.	Water-based and petroleum-based.
POSSIBLE GLOVE	• Immediate Type I	 Delay Type IV 	Plasticizers used in

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ASSOCIATED HEALTH RELATED REACTIONS	 hypersensitibity caused by certain natural rubber latex proteins. Delay Type IV hypersensitivity due to certain types of accelerators used in the vulcanization process. 	hypersensitivity if certain types of accelerators are used.	vinyl gloves have shown to be carcinoginic. • Chemical Allergies (Type IV)
FIT AND COMFORT	Excellent, conforms to hand.	Good to Excellent, conforms to hand.	Fair, loose-fitting.
COST	Low to Moderate.	Moderate to High.	Low to Moderate.
RECOMMENDED USE	Optimal choice based on overall performance. Material strength supports use in high- risk situations and potential exposure to blood-borne pathogens.	Latex-like properties make this an ideal synthetic alternative for latex-sensitized individuals. Premier choice for use in high-risk situations, including infectious agents and most chemicals.	Low risk situations where exposure to blood-borne pathogens is limited and for short-term, minimal stress situations.