Reusable & Disposable Gloves

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our glove selection guide.

This guide helps you choose the most appropriate reusable or disposable glove to use in your workplace environment and for your application. It sets out the important points to consider when selecting a glove and provides details of the different types of glove we offer.

We include an overview of relevant safety standards that you should be aware of when choosing either reusable or disposable gloves, as well as how and where to measure to get the right fit.

WHY BUY FROM RS?

As industry experts we offer a wide range of gloves for every requirement and environment, from professionally-approved RS products, to gloves from many of the market leading brands. This means you can find all the products you need from one source, with next day delivery, competitive pricing and bulk discounts.

REUSABLE GLOVES Page 8

We have divided our reusable gloves range into nine types, according to application:

Anti-vibration
Reduces the effect of impact, shock and vibration for users of powered hand-held tools, or those needing to hold a workpiece in direct contact with machinery.

Chemical resistant
Protects users from harmful chemical effects used in industrial and pharmaceutical applications.

Cold resistant
Protects users from extreme cold exposure for applications such as farming, construction and machine operation.

Cut resistant
Provides protection from sharp objects. Typically used in food and catering applications.

Electrical safety
Protects electrical engineers from shock while working on live electrical equipment.

General purpose
Gives the wearer protection against a variety of hazards such as cut, tear, puncture or abrasion. Used where protection from more than one hazard is needed.

Heat resistant
Protects from extreme heat exposure. Typically used in laboratory work, construction or catering.

Puncture resistant
Protects users from sharp objects such as glass fragments, metal shards, wood splinters, nails, wire and needles.

Special purpose
A range of gloves to include oil repellent, flame resistant and those with special coatings for niche applications.

DISPOSABLE GLOVES Page 22

Glove Material

Disposable gloves are split into categories according to their construction material:

Latex
Designed for comfort and dexterity.

Neoprene
Possess very high chemical resistance and are low in allergens.

Vinyl
A low cost glove with low allergens.

Nitrile
With high chemical resistance, high strength and puncture resistant.

Polyethylene
Another low cost glove with low strength.

Polymer
Comfortable to wear, with low allergens and moderate strength.

Glove Type

Disposable gloves divide into three types according to their intended application.

Chemical resistant
Protects users from harmful chemical effects for a limited period of time for industrial applications.

Medical
These gloves offer the highest level of quality for higher-risk environments.

Minimal risk
Protects user from low-level risks for janitorial, general maintenance and light food processing tasks.

Getting the Perfect Fit

THE IMPORTANCE OF SIZE

Choosing the correct size of glove is important. Wearing gloves that are too tight or too loose can impair the grip or create folds and be uncomfortable.

When users are issued with comfortable gloves of the correct size, they are more likely to be worn and safety is less likely to be compromised.

REUSABLE GLOVES

Size Range	Size (inch)	Size cm
Small	6-8	15-20
Medium	9	21-23
Large	10	24-25
Extra Large	11-12	26-30

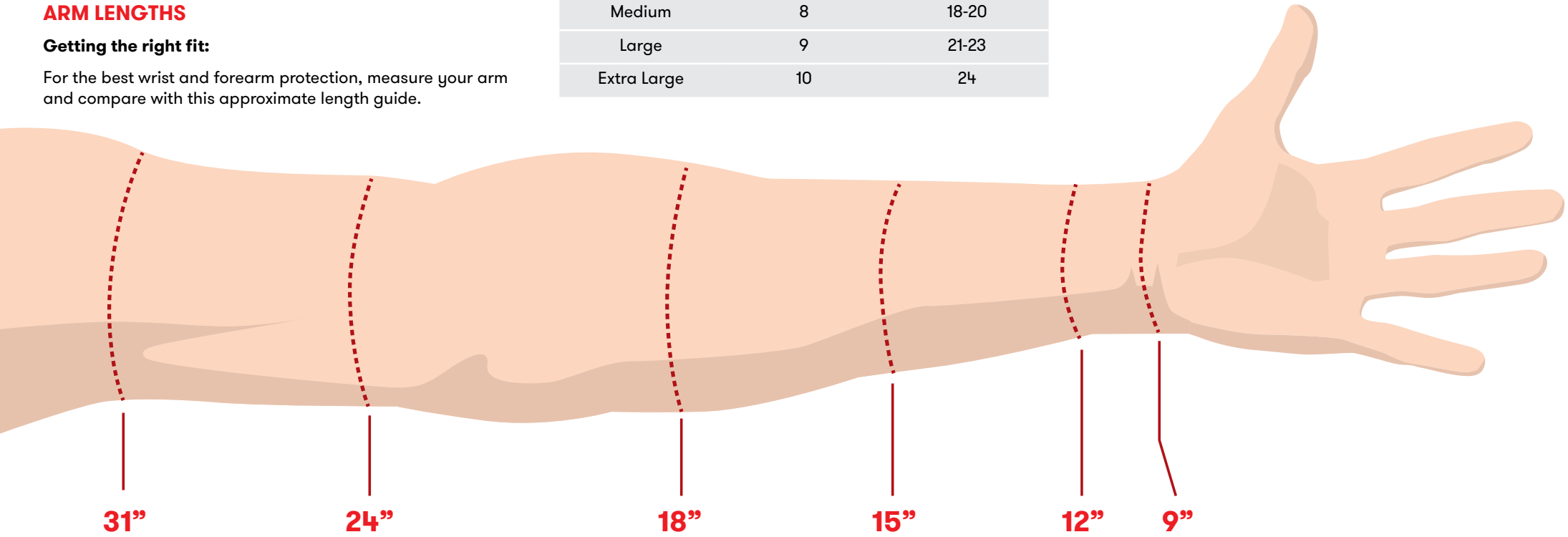
DISPOSABLE GLOVES

Size Range	Size (inch)	Size cm
Small	6-7	15-17
Medium	8	18-20
Large	9	21-23
Extra Large	10	24

ARM LENGTHS

Getting the right fit:

For the best wrist and forearm protection, measure your arm and compare with this approximate length guide.



REUSABLE GLOVES: SAFETY STANDARDS

Reusable gloves within the RS range are provided by a number of suppliers and manufacturers and each is designed to comply with differing protection standards. To enable easy comparison and shopping within the gloves range, RS provides details of various compliance levels and ratings within the specifications table relating to each product.

Buyers can filter the range by selecting the specific European Standard they need for each application and comparing the relevant products.

The European and US standards are still the most frequently referred to even outside these continents. There are some national standards and specifications available although these are not normally recognised outside of their regions.

EUROPEAN STANDARDS

EN420 - general requirements

EN420 defines the general requirements for most types of protective gloves:

- Product and packaging information and marking
- Design and construction
- Fitness for the purpose
- Comfort and efficiency
- Innocuousness
- Storage
- Sizing

Electrical Safety Gauntlets

Electrical Safety Gauntlets are classed by the maximum working AC voltage that they protect against:

Clase	Maximum working AC voltage
00	500V
0	1,000V
1	7,500V
2	17,000V
3	26,500V
4	36,000V

The higher the 'Rating' score, the better the performance.
0 represents a fail; X denotes no test was carried out.

Mechanical Hazards EN388

abcd

	Rating
a. Resistance to abrasion	0-4
b. Blade cut resistance	0-5
c. Tear resistance	0-4
d. Puncture resistance	0-4

Chemical and Micro-Organism EN374

	Rating
EN374-2 Resistance to penetration by micro-organisms. Referred to as Acceptable Quality Level (AQL)	1-3
EN374-3 Resistance to chemical hazards (permeation)	1-6

Thermal Hazards (Heat and/or Fire) EN407

abcd

	Rating
a. Burning behaviour	0-4
b. Contact heat	0-4
c. Convection heat	0-4
d. Radiant heat	0-4
e. Small splashes of molten metal	0-4
f. Large splashes of molten metal	0-4

Protection from Cold EN511

	Rating
a. Resistance to convection cold	0-4
b. Resistance to contact cold	0-4
c. Permeability to water	0-1

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Acceptable Quality Level (AQL): this relates to the maximum number of defects you can expect per 100 gloves. For example, European Standards state that medical examination gloves shall have an AQL of 1.5. This means that it's acceptable for up to 1.5% of gloves made to contain a pinhole.

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EN455 - for medical use

EN455 defines the requirements and testing carried out on single-use gloves intended for medical purposes. It covers 4 key areas:

- EN455-1: Freedom from holes
- EN455-2: Physical properties
- EN455-3: Biological evaluation
- EN455-4: Shelf life determination

EN1149 - electrostatic properties

This is a series of standards for test methods and requirements for the electrostatic properties of protective clothing. Coverage includes:

- EN1149-1: Measure of surface resistivity
- EN1149-3: Measure of charge decay
- EN1149-5: Material and design requirements

Chemical and Micro-Organism EN374

	Rating
EN374-2 Resistance to penetration by micro-organisms. Referred to as Acceptable Quality Level (AQL)	1-3
EN374-3 Resistance to chemical hazards (permeation)	1-6

Medical Devices Directives 93/42/EEC

The Medical Devices Directives classify devices according to the potential hazard, expected duration of contact and expected invasiveness. If a product conforms to the Medical Devices Directives it must carry a CE mark on its packaging and may also provide a statement of its classification. In addition, the properties of medical devices are described by a range of standards.

Classification of Devices

Class I
Non-invasive devices, for example, examination gloves (entry into a bodily orifice is not considered invasive). Class I is generally regarded as low-risk.

Class I – Sterile
Sterilised Class I devices, for example, sterile procedure gloves. Class I is generally regarded as low-risk.

Class IIa
Short-term invasive devices, for example surgical gloves. Class IIa is generally regarded as medium-risk.

Information pertaining to a product's classification within the Medical Devices Directive can be obtained from individual product datasheets on the RS website.

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