

### Reduce the Occurrence of Latex Allergies

*Many studies suggest that up to 6% of the general population and up to 13% of healthcare workers will develop an allergic reaction to latex at some point in their lifetime. Reaction to latex can be as simple as irritant contact dermatitis – the development of dry, itchy, irritated areas on the skin, usually the hands. This is caused by not only the latex material, but also the powders added to the gloves to assist in donning them. However, some patients can develop more severe reactions to latex, including anaphylactic shock – a condition where the blood pressure plummets due to the widening of blood vessels in the body. Left untreated, this intense allergic reaction could cause death.<sup>1</sup>*



### Reduce Lost Work Time

According to one Michigan healthcare organization, the average cost of lost work time for an employee suffering from the effects of a latex allergy was \$38,077 per occurrence.\* After implementing changes to their policy regarding the facility wide usage of latex, this healthcare organization was able to drop their costs for latex allergy related lost work time to \$4,289 per occurrence.<sup>2</sup>

### Protect Not Only the Worker, but Also the Public

Latex allergies don't just occur with workers who come into contact with latex, but can occur with any member of the general public who is susceptible to latex allergies. Latex allergens can be passed along in the air, by touch, by residual contact or by cross-contamination of food. Employers should supply their employees with non-latex gloves to ensure the safety and comfort of their employees and others.

### Mitigate the Frequency and Cost of Litigation

Disability from occupationally induced allergies is compensable under Workers' Compensation Law.<sup>3</sup> A worker with natural rubber latex-induced anaphylaxis is considered to be 100% impaired from performing his/her specific job if the job entails exposure to the causative agent.<sup>3</sup> Disability costs associated with latex allergies can be large. About 70% of reported Workers' Compensation cases for Type I latex allergy sensitivity have resulted in financial awards to the worker, and the rate is increasing.<sup>4</sup>

\* Lost work time was defined as missing up to 8 days of work.

***The Choice is Easy. Nitrile Gloves Just Make Sense.***

Preferred Applications	Latex	Nitrile
Heavy Janitorial		•
Heavy Industrial		•
Law Enforcement	•	•
Security		•
Pharmaceutical	•	•
Lab Work	•	•
Blood/Bodily Fluids	•	•
Dental		•
EMS Crews	•	•
Healthcare	•	•
Meat/Poultry Handling		•
Food Handling		•
Chemical Splash	•	•
Precision Mechanical/Automotive	•	•
General Mechanical/Automotive		•

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that: "Nitrile gloves, in contrast, provide a better barrier to paints and organic solvents—the chemicals that are some of the toughest on gloves. Because they protect well and are durable, nitrile gloves offer good value for your safety dollar."<sup>5</sup>



## ProGuard®

- Superior Stretch
- Superior Puncture Resistance
- Superior Barrier Protection
- Great Dexterity
- Latex Free
- FDA Compliant
- Packaging: 100 gloves per box/10 boxes per case

## Disposable Nitrile Exam & General Purpose Gloves

### Exam Gloves



Item #	Description	Color	Size
790370	8641S Powder Free Exam	White	Small
790371	8641M Powder Free Exam	White	Medium
790372	8641L Powder Free Exam	White	Large
790373	8641XL Powder Free Exam	White	X-Large

**Applications:** Ideal for Urgent Care Facilities, Clinics, Dental Offices, Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Police, Fire, EMS, Vet Clinics. Meets OSHA Guidelines for handling Blood-borne Pathogens.

### General Purpose



Item #	Description	Color	Size
790150	8643S Powder Free General Purpose	White	Small
790151	8643M Powder Free General Purpose	White	Medium
790152	8643L Powder Free General Purpose	White	Large
790153	8643XL Powder Free General Purpose	White	X-Large

**Applications:** Ideal for Food Service, General Cleaning Applications, Light Assembly and Parts Handling.

### References

1. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America "Latex Allergy" - <http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=9&sub=21&cont=383>
2. Ranta P. and Ownby D. Healthcare Epidemiology. "A Review of Natural-Rubber Latex Allergy in Health Care Workers."
3. Green-McKenzie A. and Hudes D. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. "Latex Induced Occupational Asthma in a Surgical Pathologist." Environmental Health Perspectives 113, no. 7 (July 2005): 888.
4. Gelman J.L. "United States Workers' Compensation Programs are Becoming Sensitized to Latex." Update on the Law...Latex Allergy Litigation 21, no. 7 (November 1999).
5. EPA Design for the Environment Choosing the Right Gloves for Painting Cars - <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/auto/gloves/index.htm#4>

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