

Gloves and Hand Protection

We use our hands more than any other body part in construction work. That's why hand injuries are so common—more than a half million per year reference OSHA! ALL hand injuries are preventable when we recognize hand hazards. Plan all activities to eliminate hand hazards by discussing the hand placement and protection of hands. The best way to avoid cutting your hand is to not come in contact with anything that will cut them!! The correct glove for task shall be listed on Pre Task Plan. Hand Safety should be managed in the same manner as all other hazards – Engineered Controls – Administrative Controls – and finally PPE.

Hazards:

- Missing guards on equipment.
- Pinch points.
- Sharp edge material
- Hot Work
- Chemicals
- Vibrations
- Electric Shock
- Tools with sharp edges or abrasive surfaces
- Equipment that has potential to injure hands (angle grinder, power saw...)



Safe procedures:

- Make sure hand placement is safe. Can the tool hit body parts from use? Think through entire usage. What can go wrong?
- Avoid hand contact with material that has sharp edges.
- Be proactive. Think about the hazards before doing the job. In case tool bounces or fails, where is your hand? Nail gun use.
- Recognize that hand protection is based on the hazard. Concrete presents different needs than sharp edges.
- Use the right kind of gloves. Check the MSDS for information on types of gloves to be worn. PPE must not present a greater hazard such as around moving parts, belts, shafts.
- Report all breaks in the skin for first-aid & follow-up. Minor issues can become major if not handled promptly.
- Most gloves are **not** cut proof – gloves are rated to be cut **resistant**

Let's ask ourselves:

What hand hazards do we have on our site?

What close calls with hand injuries have we had?

Do we have the type of gloves we need onsite and ready for use?

What can we do to improve hand hazards on this job?

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Protective work gloves will be worn while performing all construction work on the project site. When not working, gloves must be immediately available for use when needed, i.e., kept on your person. Hand and finger protection must be specifically addressed in the development of project specific pre task plans. The specific protection must be identified. Each employer's competent person must assist in recommending the correct glove for the work task. The specific type of glove is dependent upon the work task (see chart for some examples). In general, the wearing of cut resistant style gloves is preferred. If the glove use creates an additional hazard due to a particular work task, for example working near rotating equipment, gloves will not be worn for that specific task. Pre Task planning will document glove use. Our revised Safety Manual lists these requirements on page 53.

Toolbox Talking Points



WORK GLOVE SELECTION	
Exposure	Hand Protection
General Maintenance, Operation, Material Handling and Housekeeping Tasks	Appropriate work gloves are required. ANSI/ENN rated level 1 cut resistant work gloves are preferred. Equivalent protection may be provided by leather work gloves.
Potential cut exposure, razor knife use, sheet metal work or other exposure to sharp edges,	360 degree Level 2 or higher cut resistant. Where there is potential exposure to the arm above the cuff of the glove also use cut resistant sleeves.
Temperature Extremes	Nomex or Lined Kevlar
Chemicals	Review "Material Safety Data Sheet" for appropriate glove selection.
Bodily Fluids	Nitrile or Latex
Welding and Burning Operations	Regular welding gloves
Electrical work	Energized electrical work is prohibited. If site specific exception is granted, appropriate glove use is covered by the appropriate safety regulations.



