

PROLONGING DISPOSABLE GLOVE USAGE DURING SUPPLY SHORTAGES

While disposable gloves are not intended for multiple uses, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused supply constraints and limited availability of single use gloves. During the supply shortages, it is acceptable to reuse lightly used disposable gloves in some non-medical settings.



Do not reuse gloves in contact with blood.



It is never advised to reuse any gloves that have been used or will be reused for protection against harmful chemicals.

Should you find yourself in circumstances where reusing disposable gloves is necessary, here are some suggestions to help lower potential risks of infection:

- Conserve use of gloves for tasks requiring protection from blood, bodily fluids, and potentially hazardous substances.
- Perform proper hand hygiene as a first line of defense against viruses like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based ($\geq 60\%$) hand sanitizer before donning and after doffing gloves.
- Dispose of gloves showing any signs of degradation or damage (holes, rip, tearing), when they are visually soiled/dirtied or when contaminated with blood or bodily fluids.

When it is necessary to reuse disposable gloves, the following methods can be used to clean them for re-use. It is important to perform a thorough inspection of every glove to ensure it shows no signs of rips, tears or degradation prior to reuse.



Option 1 Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer (ABHS)

The most common method for cleaning disposable gloves is the use of alcohol-based ($\geq 60\%$) hand sanitizer.² For effective cleaning:

- 1 With the gloves on your hands, add enough hand sanitizer to keep gloves wet for 20 seconds.
- 2 Rub hands together for 20 seconds, making sure to cover fingertips, thumbs and between fingers.³
- 3 Let gloves air dry.

This process can be repeated multiple times, provided gloves are not compromised.



Option 2 Isopropyl Alcohol

A common practice used to sanitize gloves in Life Sciences applications is the use of a 70% isopropanol (rubbing alcohol or denatured alcohol) spray. To clean in this method:

- 1 Spray gloves with isopropanol spray to ensure they remain wet for 20 seconds. Apply a second time, if needed.
- 2 Let gloves air dry.

This method can be used until gloves start to show signs of degradation - such as holes, rips, tears, stiff/brittle feel, tackiness or discoloration.



Option 3 Soap and Water (Handwashing Gloves)

Cleaning gloves with soap and water can remove germs, dirt and impurities while lowering the risk of spreading infection, but does not disinfect gloves. While wearing gloves:

- 1 Add a small amount of liquid dish or hand soap to gloved hands.
- 2 Thoroughly wash hands under water for 20 seconds, making sure to wash fingertips, thumbs and between fingers.
- 3 Dry gloves by air or with a clean, absorbent material.

This can be done until cleaning appears to be less effective because obvious signs of contamination remain - such as stains on the glove - or until gloves begin to show signs of degradation, such as holes, rips, tears, stiff/brittle feel, tackiness or discoloration.^{1,3}

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Option 4 Diluted Bleach Solution

Although bleach can be used as a disinfectant, it is best to use this method as a last resort as bleach is associated with many health hazards. For example, when bleach fumes are inhaled in poorly ventilated areas, individuals can experience respiratory irritation, watery eyes, nausea and light-headedness. If not wearing the proper PPE while diluting bleach, accidental splashes can lead to skin irritation or damaged clothing. Always take precautions when preparing a diluted bleach solution by working in a well-ventilated area and by wearing the proper PPE, such as protective eyewear, garments and gloves.

To prepare a bleach solution, the CDC recommends the following mixtures⁴:

- 4 teaspoons of bleach into 1 quart of water (20 ml of bleach into 946 ml of water)
- 1/3 cup bleach into 1 gallon of water (80 ml of bleach into 3.78L of water)

Once the bleach solution has been prepared:

- 1 Dip gloved hands into the diluted bleach solution for 5 seconds, ensuring complete coverage.
- 2 Avoid direct skin contact while removing gloves from the solution.
- 3 Keep hands pointed downward and allow gloves to drip dry for 1 minute.
- 4 Rinse gloved hands under tap water and wipe dry with a clean, absorbent material.
- 5 Check gloves again to ensure no degradation has occurred (such as holes, rips, tears, stiff/brittle feel, tackiness or discoloration).

This method can be reused until signs of damage or degradation are visible. Bleach solutions should not sit for longer than one day, and should not be used if there are visible signs of contamination such as dirt or organic matter in the solution.

Please contact Customer Service or visit [Ansell.com](https://www.ansell.com) for more information.

References:

1. WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care: First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care Is Safer Care. (2009).
2. Food and Drug Administration's Medical Glove Conservation Strategies: Letter to Health Care Providers. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/medical-glove-conservation-strategies-letter-health-care-providers>. Published on April 27, 2020.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/gloves.html>
4. CDC Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html#:~:text=Unexpired%20household%20bleach%20will%20be,up%20to%2024%20hours>.

Disclaimer:

1. This document is available to explain the different cleansing methods and their limits. Ansell cannot guarantee that the PPE items will be free from COVID-19 (or other virus contamination) post any cleaning/cleansing process. Additionally, regarding single use gloves: User discretion is advised, and proper hand hygiene practices should be performed in addition to wearing gloves for protection from viruses. Ansell cannot guarantee that gently used gloves retain the same level of chemical and microorganism protection as what is claimed with single use performance. The information provided here is in accordance with the FDA, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization guidance¹⁻³ and based solely on gloves intended for non-sterile, non-food handling, and non-patient usage.
2. Employers must ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace as well as the proper disposal of regulated waste and PPE. Since Ansell does not control the environment where PPE is stored or used, the reuse decisions of Ansell products, whether alone or in combination with additional PPE for an application is the final responsibility of the user.
3. US FDA has advised against using any alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing methanol.

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