

Clean Hands, Healthy Skin. **Safer Gloves**



Why Hand Hygiene & Dryness Matter BEFORE YOU GLOVE UP

We all know gloves protect our hands. But what protects the hands inside the glove?

Whether you work with oils, chemicals, food, or machinery, wearing gloves is a non-negotiable part of keeping safe and productive. But what many workers, and employers, overlook is what happens before the gloves goes on.

Poor hand hygiene and damp skin underneath gloves can compromise not just comfort but also safety, skin health and glove performance. Here's why dry, clean hands matter more than you might think..

Your Skin Is The First Layer of Defence

The skin is the body's largest organ, and the skin on your hands is uniquely built for work. It is thicker on the palms, rich in sweat glands and more exposed to environmental hazards than most other areas. But when skin is compromised, by irritants, moisture, or friction, it becomes vulnerable.

Cracks and dryness lead to itching, pain and even infection. In fact, up to 80% of occupational contact dermatitis cases affect the hands, often triggered by a combination of harsh substances and prolonged glove use without proper skin care.

Why You Should Start

WITH CLEAN, DRY HANDS

Before donning any glove, it's critical to wash and dry your hands properly. Here's why:



PREVENT CONTAMINATION

Dirty or oily hands can contaminate the inside of the gloves, reducing their effectiveness and potentially transferring contaminants between surfaces or products. In food processing, hygiene-critical environments or cleanrooms, this could lead to serious breaches in compliance.

PROTECT SKIN HEALTH

Wearing gloves over damp skin creates a warm, moist environment that can break down the skin's natural barrier.

This leads to irritation, discomfort and increases the risk of hand dermatitis, one of the most common work-related skin conditions.



PRESERVE GLOVE INTEGRITY

Moisture or residue inside the glove can weaken the glove material, particularly in extended wear. This may reduce grip, comfort or even lead to premature degradation, especially in chemical-handling applications.



BOOST COMFORT AND WEAR TIME

Dry hands are simply more comfortable in gloves. Workers are less likely to remove gloves due to sweat, itching or slippage, improving both productivity and protection.



BEST PRACTICES

Hand Hygiene Before Gloving Up

Following a few simple steps can make a significant difference!

- ✓ **Wash with a mild cleanser** Avoid harsh soaps that strip the skin of natural oils.
- ✓ **Dry thoroughly** Pay attention to between the fingers and around the nails.
- ✓ **Inspect your skin** Look for cracks, dryness or irritation. Treat early.
- ✓ **Avoid hand sanitiser with alcohol if skin is broken** It can sting and worsen irritation

Tip: A clean towel or hand dryer at your PPE station can dramatically increase compliance with drying steps.

Dr. Lisa Kirby, Consultant Dermatologist with the Skin Health Alliance, emphasises: "Once the skin barrier becomes damaged, protecting the hands is very challenging. Restoring moisture is key — but prevention is easier and more effective."

The Moisture Trap

WHY WET HANDS AND GLOVES DON'T MIX

Trapped moisture inside gloves leads to "occlusion." When water cannot evaporate and accumulates under the glove. Over time, this weakens the skin and can cause maceration (softening and breaking of the skin), a prime condition for dermatitis and secondary infections.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), skin irritation is one of the top barriers to good hand hygiene. This is especially true when glove use follows handwashing without drying.

Gloves Are PPE

NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR HYGIENE

Gloves protect your skin from external hazards, but only if used properly. They cannot undo the damage of poor hand hygiene, nor can they compensate for unhealthy skin.

Occupational dermatitis costs workers and employers in lost productivity, missed work, and long-term health consequences. And in many cases, it's avoidable.



The Right Glove Complements Good Hygiene

Once your hands are clean and dry, the gloves you choose can either maintain that condition, or undo it.

That's why ATG® designs gloves that support hand health beyond protection. Our gloves are:

- ✓ **Pre-washed and skin-safe straight from the pack**
- ✓ **Dermatologically accredited by the Skin Health Alliance**
- ✓ **Free from harmful substances (Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 certified)**
- ✓ **Cool and breathable, with technologies like AD-APT® that help keep hands drier for longer**

Whether you choose MaxiFlex®, MaxiCut®, MaxiDry® or MaxiChem®, ATG® gloves are designed to work with your skin, not against it.

Start Clean. Stay Comfortable.

WORK PROTECTED.

Clean, dry hands are your first layer of PPE. And one of the most important. They help prevent irritation, improve glove performance, and reduce long-term skin risks.

And when you pair good hygiene with skin-friendly, ergonomically engineered gloves from ATG®, you give your hands the care they deserve.

Protect your hands before you glove up. And choose a glove designed to protect your hands from within.

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