

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LATEX AND NITRILE?

Latex is a natural product made from the sap of the heveabraziliensis tree, primarily grown in Southeast Asia. Latex Gloves are considered to have the best feel and fit. A small percentage of people are allergic to Latex (around 1%), however allergic reactions are higher among groups more often exposed to latex. (Dentists, Doctors and Nurses)

Nitrile is a synthetic polymer with similar characteristics and feel to Natural Rubber Latex. It does not produce allergic reactions but is also more expensive.

LATEX ALLERGIES

Latex allergies are relatively rare, affecting approximately 1% of the general population. However frequent exposure to latex results in increased risk of developing allergic reactions.



A skin prick study performed on dental workers showed allergic responses between 9.1-9.7% for dental assistants/hygienist and 5.1-6.7% for dentists. The most common reaction to latex is called irritant contact dermatitis. This is not an allergic reaction but is caused by having your hands in

rubber gloves for long periods of time and can be aggravated by the powders in many gloves. In this case it is not necessary to switch to a more expensive nitrile glove. This problem can be minimized if not eliminated by washing your hands with a mild soap after use, using a powder-free glove, using a moisturizer after glove use (oil based hand cream can cause latex gloves to deteriorate), or by wearing an ultra thin, reusable glove liner.

SYMPTOMS OF LATEX ALLERGIES

- Red, crusty rash stopping at the wrist where the glove ends
- Red itchy bumps sometimes associated with runny nose, red eyes and or asthma
- Rare and severe latex allergies can even result in shock

HOW TO AVOID LATEX ALLERGIES?

- Latex allergies are often aggravated by powdered gloves which can carry latex proteins. Use a non powdered glove
- Best of all, use a non latex glove such as a Nitrile or Vinyl gloves



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