



## Latex – An Introduction

Latex gloves have been around for over 100 years, first making it onto the scene in medical settings back in 1894. Due to their **versatility, strength, elasticity, and flexibility**, they're still one of the most popular disposable glove varieties on the market.



Despite drawbacks, they remain one of **the most popular types of gloves**.



## QUICK LATEX FACTS

1

Latex gloves are made from **natural rubber latex (NRL)**.

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NRL comes from a **milky sap found in rubber trees** (*Hevea brasiliensis*) in Africa and Southeast Asia.

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The sap contains water, sugar, and proteins.

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During manufacturing, **latex is mixed with chemicals** (accelerators) and processed to **adjust flexibility**.

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Latex is **strong, elastic, and highly versatile**.

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It is **used in everyday items** like condoms, car tyres, pacifiers (dummies), and balloons.

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Latex is widely used in **medical and industrial products**.

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Common **medical uses** include syringes, dental dams, catheters, and intravenous tubing.

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Disposable gloves are an essential part of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** in workplaces.

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They **protect hands** from hazards and help prevent cross-contamination.

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They **reduce the spread of harmful substances** between people, surfaces, and equipment.

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Latex gloves are **highly elastic and resistant to tearing**.

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They **provide protection** against bacteria, viruses, and some chemicals.

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Latex offers a **"second-skin" fit** for better dexterity and touch sensitivity.

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Commonly **used in medical and professional settings** like hospitals, dental clinics, veterinary practices, and tattoo studios.

16

Latex gloves can cause allergies in some people.

