

Frequently Asked Questions

What's new about it?

Ansell's foray into product leadership is led by the launch of the TouchNTuff® Sterile Polyisoprene (83-500), an offering tailored to meet the stringent cleanliness requirements of the Life Sciences segment. This is a glove made from synthetic polyisoprene, specifically engineered to deliver all the performance of natural rubber latex without the risk of natural rubber latex sensitization.

What is Polyisoprene and why would I use this material for gloves?

Synthetic polyisoprene is similar to natural rubber in structure and properties. This results in a glove of comparable comfort. Polyisoprene, does not contain natural rubber proteins and is safe for natural rubber Latex-sensitive (Type I) manufacturing and laboratory professionals. The quality of natural rubber Latex depends on external environmental conditions (weather, rain, etc). Synthetic polyisoprene, manufactured in the laboratory, is more controlled resulting in a more consistent product (compared to natural rubber Latex). Hence we have a better lot to lot uniformity in the gloves manufactured from polyisoprene.

What are the key selling points?

- Sterile Polyisoprene is a very comfortable glove that delivers all the tactile sensitivity characteristic of natural rubber Latex
- New ergonomically-designed formers which enhance fit and comfort
- Safe for natural rubber Latex-Sensitive (Type I) laboratory and manufacturing professionals
- Engineered to meet industry requirements; Low Particulate Count (<1800 Counts/cm²) makes it suitable for ISO Class 5 or higher clean room environments

What are the benefits of a more comfortable glove?

- About 66% of the wearers from our end user trials, stated that they wore the new TouchNTuff® 83-500 (Sterile Polyisoprene) for a longer time compared to their current glove. The reason for longer wear time is the high level of comfort. This will minimize the number of gloves consumed by the wearer on a daily basis, translating into savings on the company's glove spend.
- Gloves are comfortable when a worker is able to perform his or her tasks efficiently without removing the glove. When gloves are uncomfortable and/or inappropriate for the task, workers will remove them, making the worker non-compliant and increases the risk of injury

What makes the Sterile Polyisoprene glove more comfortable?

- The glove conforms better to the shape of the hand because of its material properties (elasticity, flexibility and elongation). The resultant product is a glove which fits snugly, providing enhanced comfort and safety.
- The new sterile polyisoprene has been designed on a hand specific, ergonomically designed former, which enhances comfort

Why should I pay a premium for this offering?

This Polymer is the first offering in the Life Sciences segment that simultaneously addresses comfort and natural rubber Latex derived allergy issues. Additionally the offering has been designed with the high cleanliness standards expected by the Life Sciences Segments. There are 2 key reasons that justify the premium pricing (a) Based on VOC input, the number of gloves used per day will decrease the glove spend and (b) Increased comfort will result in gloves being used, thereby reducing injuries and compliance issues.

How does the Sterile Polyisoprene fit into the Ansell Product Portfolio?

The Ansell product portfolio encompasses products that are used in lab, controlled/critical and sterile environments. With this material we are introducing a new class of materials, and this offering addresses the premium sterile segment, wherein we ensure no microbial contamination.