

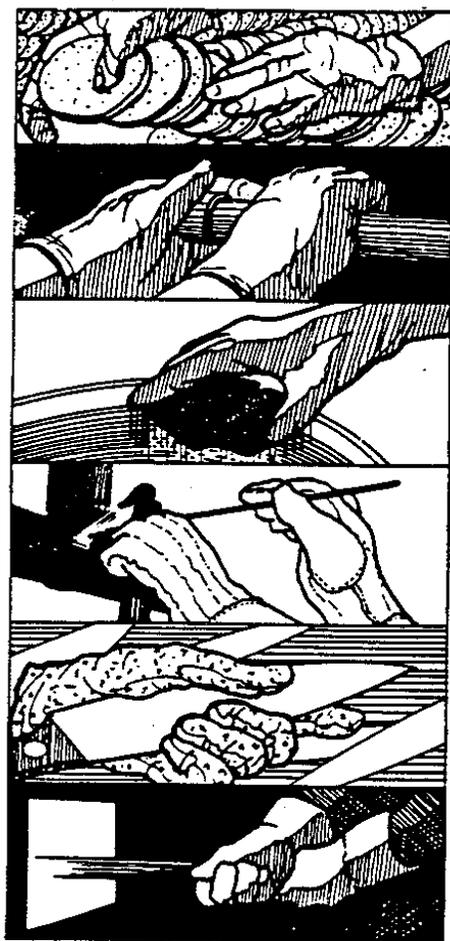
# CHOOSING AND USING WORK GLOVES

## *Selecting The Right Protective Handwear*

Work gloves cannot prevent hand accidents—only safe and conscientious work practices can do that. But, choosing the right work glove for the job *can* help protect you from unnecessary injury and disability if an accident should occur. When protective handwear is required for the job you perform, make sure that the

gloves you use fit well, are comfortable to wear, and are rated to guard against the particular hand hazards you face.

The following is a guide to the most common types of protective work gloves and the types of hazards they can guard against.



### **Disposable Gloves**

Disposable gloves, usually made of light-weight plastic, can help guard against mild irritants. (These gloves are often used for food-handling operations.)

### **Fabric Gloves**

Gloves made of cotton or fabric blends are generally used to improve your grip when handling slippery objects. They also help insulate your hands from mild heat or cold.

### **Rubber Gloves**

Although commonly called “rubber,” these gloves may actually be made of rubber, neoprene, poly vinyl alcohol or vinyl. These gloves help protect hands from corrosives such as organic acids and petroleum-based products.

### **Leather Gloves**

These gloves are used to guard against injuries from sparks or scraping against rough surfaces. They are also used in combination with an **insulated liner** when working with electricity.

### **Metal Mesh Gloves**

These gloves are used to protect your hands from accidental cuts and scratches. They are used most commonly by persons working with cutting tools or other sharp instruments.

### **Aluminized Gloves**

Gloves made of aluminized fabric are designed to insulate your hands from intense heat. These gloves are most commonly used by persons working with molten materials.

## **Using Hand Protectors**

Although these are the most common types of work gloves, many gloves are designed to protect against specific hazards. (For instance, workers exposed to radiation hazards wear specialized lead-lined gloves.) It's also important to remember that your work may

require that you use *additional* hand protection other than gloves which may include approved barrier creams, forearm cuffs, hand pads, mittens, or finger cots. Your supervisor can help you determine the appropriate protective handwear for your particular job, but *only* you can make them work—by wearing them.