A GUIDE TO BUYING
REUSABLE & DISPOSABLE
GLOVES



UK.RS-ONLINE.COM (UK customers)
WWW.RS-COMPONENTS.COM (international customers)

GLOVE BUYERS' GUIDE

Welcome to our guide to buying gloves from the RS range which we have produced in partnership with one of our leading suppliers, Ansell. This guide sets out all the important points to consider when selecting a glove; provides details of the different types of glove we offer; shows you how and where to measure to get the right fit; and includes an overview of relevant EN Standards. We stock the widest selection of gloves from the most popular brands in the world with next-day delivery, competitive pricing and bulk discounts.

REUSABLE GLOVES

To help you find your glove type quickly and easily we have divided our reusable gloves range into nine categories:

- Anti-vibration
- Chemical resistant
- Cold resistant
- Cut resistant
- Electrical safety
- General purpose
- Heat resistant
- Puncture resistant
- Special purpose



GO TO REUSABLE GLOVES

DISPOSABLE GLOVES

We categorised our disposable gloves range so you can easily identify the disposable glove type you need:

- Chemical resistant
- Medical
- Minimal risk



GO TO DISPOSABLE GLOVES

INFORMATION

WHICH GLOVES & WHY?
SELECTING THE RIGHT GLOVES
SEARCHING RS FOR REUSABLE GLOVES
REUSABLE GLOVES: MATERIALS & COATINGS
REUSABLE GLOVES: STANDARDS & COMPLIANCE
GETTING THE PERFECT FIT
GLOVE SIZING CHART
DISPOSABLE GLOVES: STANDARDS & COMPLIANCE
SEARCHING RS FOR DISPOSABLE GLOVES
DISPOSABLE GLOVES: FEATURES & OPTIONS

GO TO RS WWW

WIDE RANGE

We offer a massive range of some 500 different gloves – please visit rswww.com to shop the full range.



Reusable General Purpose



Nitrile Chemical Resistant



Reusable General Purpose

OTHER GLOVE TYPES



ESD & Clean Room



Welding Gloves

WHY ARE GLOVES NEEDED IN THE WORKPLACE?

In the vast majority of workplaces, employees' hands are the most likely part of the body to actively be put at risk. Each country will have its own legislation regarding health and safety and employers have a duty to protect employees' welfare.

Within the five year period from 2006/07 to 2010/11 in the **UK alone** there were over 10,000 reported handling injuries classed as 'Cuts or trapped fingers' which accounted for 16% of all major handling injuries. Within Europe, occupational skin diseases have **cost just the food industry £64 million**.



Reusable General Purpose

WHY BUY GLOVES FROM RS?

As industry experts we offer a massive range of gloves for every requirement, from the professionally-approved RS brand to the global market leader Ansell, so you can find all the different gloves types you need from one source, with next-day delivery, competitive-pricing and bulk discounts.

RS supplies two main glove types: **Disposable** and **Reusable**.



Neoprene Disposable

DISPOSABLE VS REUSABLE GLOVES

Disposable gloves tend to be thinner, generally 4-8 mils thick. This allows the user to retain good touch sensitivity and dexterity but they have poor chemical resistance. They are designed for single use only and should never be re-used.

Disposable gloves are not suitable for handling some aggressive or highly hazardous chemicals. They provide little useful protection against physical hazards as they can easily tear or puncture if snagged.

Typical applications include:

- Electronics
- Food processing
- Laboratory
- Dental
- Schools
- Assembly
- Medical
- Pharmaceutical
- Veterinary

Reusable gloves are generally 18-28 mils thick. They offer greater protection than disposable gloves against abrasion and other physical hazards, are less likely to tear in use and will resist chemical attack for longer. However, they interfere more with dexterity and touch sensitivity and can still be damaged or penetrated by many chemicals. They need to be looked after to prolong their usefulness.

Reusable gloves usually have a longer cuff length than a disposable glove made with the same material, and so offer greater protection.

GO TO RS WWW

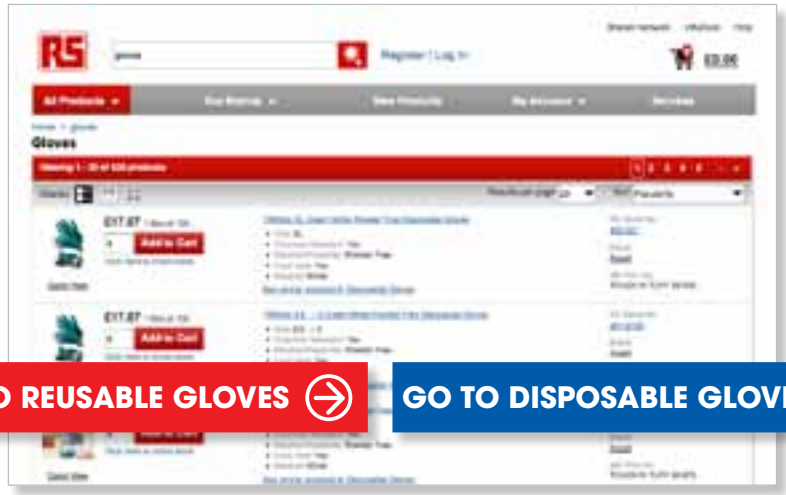
SELECTION OF A SUITABLE GLOVE

There are four factors to consider when deciding which glove type is suitable for your work:

1. **HAZARD**: the type of hazard, namely cut, chemical, puncture, anti-vibration, heat, cold or electrical.
2. **TASK**: the task being undertaken will usually be the key factor determining the choice of glove. RS's range is easy to shop and can be searched by glove type or the relevant European Safety Standards.
3. **USER**: user -specific requirements, such as size and fit, allergies, etc.
4. **CONDITIONS**: The workplace conditions, ergonomics, temperature, wet or dry conditions, etc.

These factors need to be considered together to ensure you have the right glove to suit your needs.

SHOPPING THE RS RANGE



GO TO REUSABLE GLOVES

GO TO DISPOSABLE GLOVES

REUSABLE GLOVES:

RS has split its reusable gloves range into nine different types:



Reusable Special Purpose

- **Anti-vibration:** reduces the effect of impact, shocks and vibration for workers who use powered hand-held or hand-guided tools, or need to hold work pieces in direct contact with machinery for prolonged periods
- **Chemical resistant:** protects users from harmful chemical effects for industrial and pharmaceutical applications
- **Cold resistant:** protects the user from extreme cold exposure for applications such as farming, construction and machine operation
- **Cut resistant:** provides protection from sharp objects and are typically used in food applications
- **Electrical safety:** protects electrical engineers from shocks
- **General purpose:** protection from a variety of hazards such as cut, tear, puncture or abrasion for applications requiring mixed protection levels
- **Heat resistant:** protects from extreme heat exposure for applications such as laboratory, construction or catering
- **Puncture resistant:** provides protection from very sharp objects such as glass fragments, metal shards, wood splinters, nails, wire and needles.
- **Special purpose:** this section features non-standard, niche purpose gloves

GO TO RS WWW

SEARCHING RS FOR REUSABLE GLOVES

THE RS SITE SEARCH FACILITIES

The facilities on our site have been updated to dramatically enhance the search and filter experience.

Filter by **Brand** – Over 18 brands available from industry-leading manufacturers; plus our own great value RS brand reusable gloves.

Primary Glove Application – All our reusable gloves have been organised by their main application to help you find the type you need quickly and easily. From cold-resistant to anti-vibration, electrical safety to chemical resistant, simply select the application type you need.

Safety Standards & Compliance – You can now filter by EN Standards or American Safety Standards should you have a particular compliance requirement. This is broken down into the following, filterable sections:

- Mechanical Hazards (EN388)
- Chemical/Micro-Organism (EN374)
- Thermal Hazards (EN407)
- Protection From Cold (EN511)
- American Safety Standard

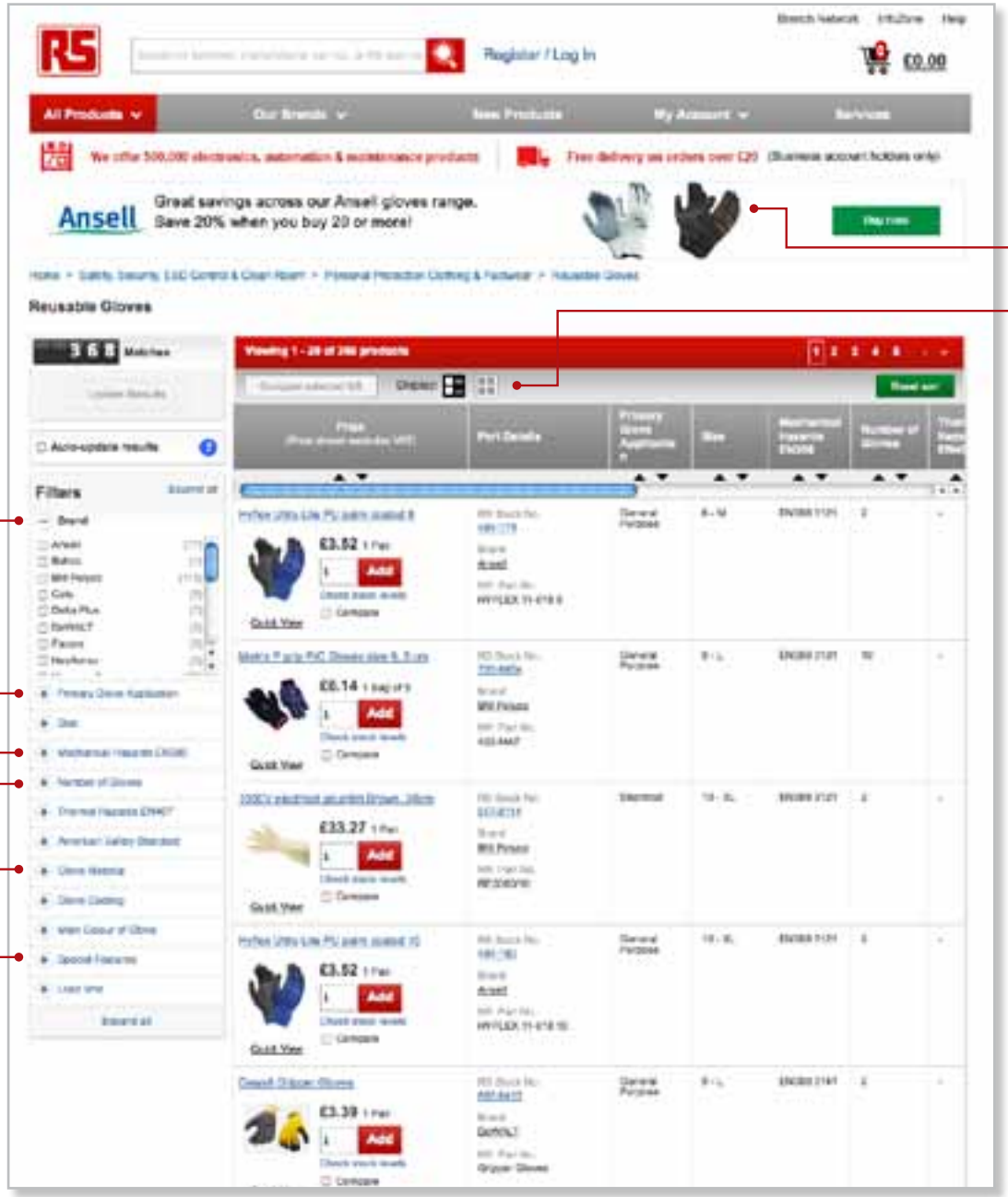
Gloves that have undergone compliance testing will detail a numerical 'score' for each part of the test undertaken. **The higher the number the better the protection.** click here for details.

Number of Gloves – For clarity, here we detail the number of individual gloves you will receive, rather than number of pairs.

Size, Material, Coating & Colour – You can also filter by size; choose a specific material type or coating should you have precise requirements; or filter by a particular colour if required.

Special Features – Any extra feature information about a product – such as Flame Resistant or Waterproof – is detailed here to help you select the right glove for you.

Reusable Gloves Search Page



Special Offers These are updated regularly and are selected relevant to your search.

Display – there are three ways to display results: **List View, Compare View** and **Grid View**.

NEXT

BACK

GO TO RS WWW

REUSABLE GLOVES

Glove Material: The table below provides an overview of the performance benefits of the various glove materials featured within our Reusable Gloves range.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE	FIBRE USED
Comfort	Cotton
Toughness	Polyester
Stretch	Nylon
Elasticity	Lycra
Insulation	Acrylic
Cut and heat resistance	Kevlar
Comfort, cut and abrasion resistance	Dyneema
Comfort, cut and abrasion resistance	HPPE
Cut resistance	Stainless Steel
Comfort and dexterity	Latex
Durability and resilience	Leather
Cut resistance, dexterity and flexibility	Metallica Yarn
Cold and chemical resistance with dexterity	Neoprene
Puncture, cut and chemical resistance with dexterity	Nitrile
Heat, cold, puncture and cut resistance	Para-aramid
Comfort and dexterity	Polycotton



Reusable General Purpose

Comfort, dexterity and abrasion resistance	Polyurethane
Dexterity, food handling and abrasion resistance	PVC
Chemical resistance	Rubber
Comfort and dexterity	Spandex
Comfort	String Knit
Cut resistance	Tensilite
Cold resistance and dexterity	Thermal Yarn
Cold resistance	Thermastat Fibre
Cold resistance and comfort	Thermax

Glove Coating: the table below details the main performance benefits of different glove coating materials used within the RS range.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE	MATERIAL USED
Excellent resistance to snag, cut, puncture and abrasion	Nitrile
Oil and wet grip	Nitrile Foam
Dry and wet grip	Latex
Dry, wet and oily grip	Neoprene
Good abrasion resistance and grip	PU
Good abrasion resistance	PVC

NUMBER, SIZES AND COLOURS

Number of Gloves: some gloves are sold as single items and other gloves are available in large packs which represent a great saving. Our web site also offers bulk discounts on the complete range. Feel free to contact us directly to obtain a quote. Tel: 0845 602 5226. Alternatively, you can request discount on large orders within the 'My Quotes' section of 'My Account' on rswww.com

Sizes
Because gloves from various manufacturers vary in size we have simplified our reusable gloves range into standardised size categories:

See pages 8 and 9 for details and a sizing guide to help you get the perfect fit.

Main Colour of Glove: this relates to the dominant glove colour.

Special Features: this indicates an additional feature of the product, such as the maximum working voltage of an Electrical Safety Gauntlet.

NEXT

BACK

EUROPEAN SAFETY STANDARDS: REUSABLE GLOVES

Gloves within the RS range are provided by a number of suppliers and manufacturers and each is designed to comply with differing protection standards. To enable easy comparison and shopping within the gloves range, RS provides details of various compliance levels and ratings within the Specifications table relating to each product. Buyers can filter the range by selecting the specific European or ANSI Standard they need for each application and comparing the relevant products.

The European and US standards are still the most frequently referred to even outside these continents. There are some national standards and specifications available although these are not normally recognised outside of their regions.


Reusable Heat Resistant

EUROPEAN STANDARDS: EN5

General requirements of EN420

EN420 defines the general requirements for most types of protective gloves:

- Product and packaging information and marking
- Design and construction
- Fitness for the purpose
- Comfort and efficiency
- Innocuousness
- Storage
- Sizing

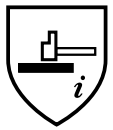
Electrical Safety Gauntlets

Electrical Safety Gauntlets are classed by the maximum working AC voltage that they protect against:

Class 00	Maximum working AC voltage	**500V**
Class 0	Maximum working AC voltage	**1,000V**
Class 1	Maximum working AC voltage	**7,500V**
Class 2	Maximum working AC voltage	**17,000V**
Class 3	Maximum working AC voltage	**26,500V**
Class 4	Maximum working AC voltage	**36,000V**

The higher the 'Rating' score, the better the performance.
0 represents a fail; X denotes no test was carried out.

Mechanical Hazards EN388


abcd

		Rating
a	Resistance to abrasion	0-4
b	Blade cut resistance	0-5
c	Tear resistance	0-4
d	Puncture resistance	0-4

Chemical and Micro-Organism EN374



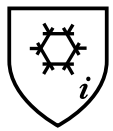
	Rating
EN374-2 Resistance to penetration by micro-organisms Referred to as Acceptable Quality Level (AQL)	1-3
EN374-3 Resistance to chemical hazards (permeation)	1-6

Thermal Hazards (Heat and/or Fire) EN407


abcd

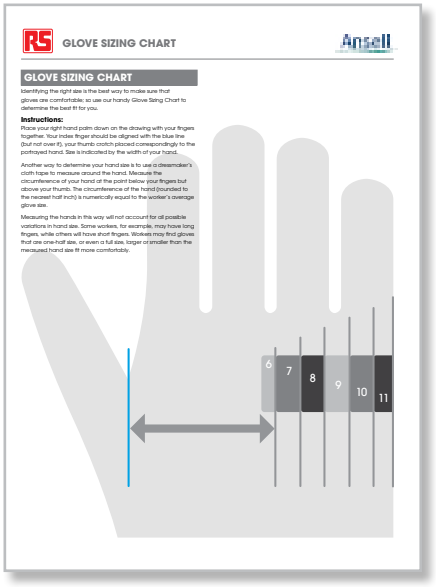
		Rating
a	Burning behaviour	0-4
b	Contact heat	0-4
c	Convection heat	0-4
d	Radiant heat	0-4
e	Small splashes of molten metal	0-4
f	Large splashes of molten metal	0-4

Protection from Cold EN511



		Rating
a	Resistance to convection cold	0-4
b	Resistance to contact cold	0-4
c	Permeability to water	0-1

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR GLOVE SIZE



Go to our handy glove sizing chart

REUSABLE GLOVES

Size Range	Size Inches	Size CM
Small	6-8	15-20
Medium	8.5-9	21-23
Large	9.5-10	24-25
Extra Large	10.5-12	26-30

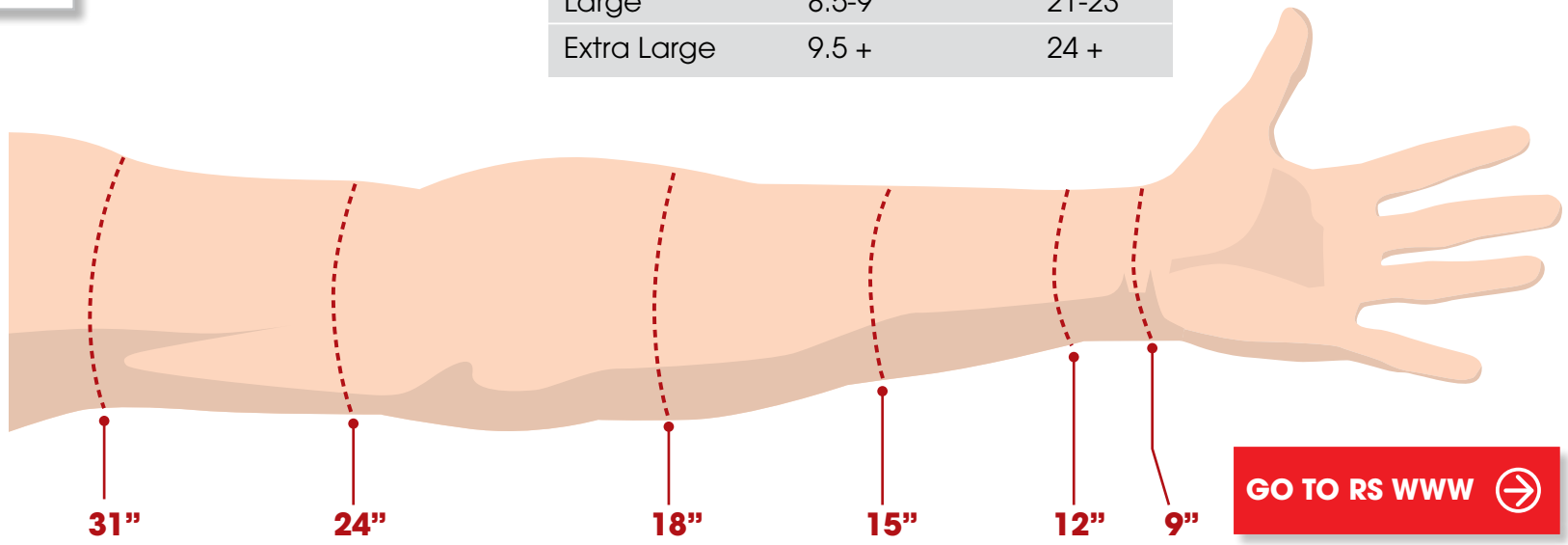
DISPOSABLE GLOVES

Size Range	Size Inches	Size CM
Small	6-7	15-17
Medium	7.5-8	18-20
Large	8.5-9	21-23
Extra Large	9.5 +	24 +

ARM LENGTHS

Getting the right fit:

For the best wrist and forearm protection, measure your arm and compare with this approximate length guide



GO TO RS WWW

NEXT
BACK

GLOVE SIZING CHART

Identifying the right size is the best way to make sure that gloves are comfortable; so use our handy Glove Sizing Chart to determine the best fit for you.

NEXT

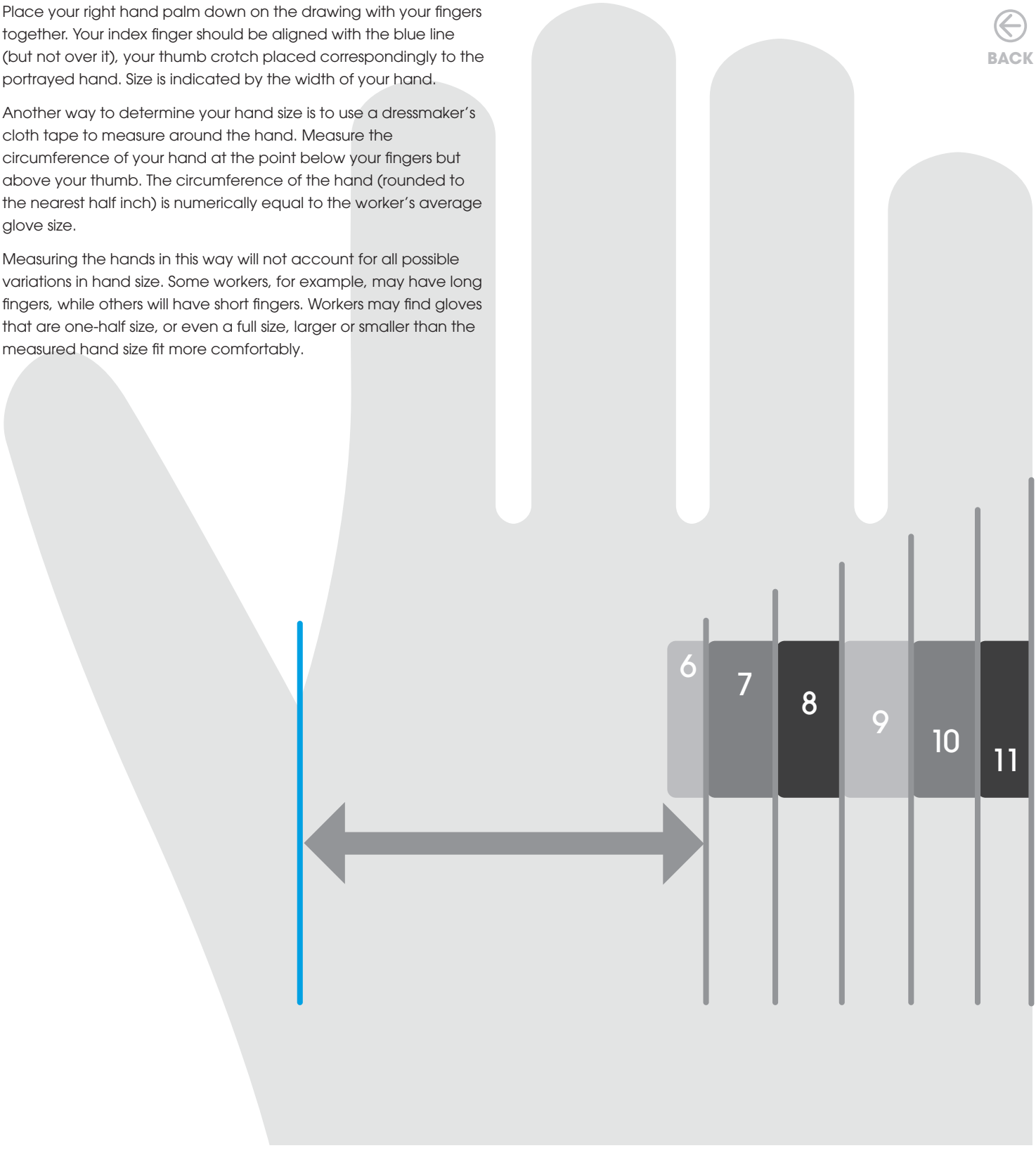
BACK

Instructions:

Place your right hand palm down on the drawing with your fingers together. Your index finger should be aligned with the blue line (but not over it), your thumb crotch placed correspondingly to the portrayed hand. Size is indicated by the width of your hand.

Another way to determine your hand size is to use a dressmaker's cloth tape to measure around the hand. Measure the circumference of your hand at the point below your fingers but above your thumb. The circumference of the hand (rounded to the nearest half inch) is numerically equal to the worker's average glove size.

Measuring the hands in this way will not account for all possible variations in hand size. Some workers, for example, may have long fingers, while others will have short fingers. Workers may find gloves that are one-half size, or even a full size, larger or smaller than the measured hand size fit more comfortably.



GO TO RS WWW

DISPOSABLE GLOVES

Glove Type

We have split our disposable gloves range into three different types to make it easy to find the right type for you:

- **Chemical resistant:** protects users from harmful chemical effects for a limited period of time for industrial applications
- **Medical:** these gloves offer the highest level of quality for higher-risk environments
- **Minimal risk:** protects user from low-level risks for janitorial, general maintenance and light food processing tasks



Neoprene Disposable

Glove Material: The table below provides an overview of the performance benefits of the various glove materials featured within our Disposable Gloves range.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE	FIBRE USED
Comfort and dexterity	Latex
Very high chemical resistance, low allergens	Neoprene
High chemical resistance, high strength and puncture resistant	Nitrile
Low cost and low strength	Polyethylene
Comfort, low allergens and moderate strength	Synthetic Polymer
Low allergens and low cost	Vinyl

GO TO RS WWW

EUROPEAN SAFETY STANDARDS: DISPOSABLE GLOVES

The higher the 'Rating' score, the better the performance.
0 represents a fail; X denotes no test was carried out.

General requirements of EN420

EN420 defines the general requirements for most types of protective gloves:

- Product and packaging information and marking
- Design and construction
- Fitness for the purpose
- Comfort and efficiency
- Innocuousness
- Storage
- Sizing

Chemical and Micro-Organism EN374	Rating
EN374-2 Resistance to penetration by micro-organisms. Referred to as Acceptable Quality Level (AQL)	**1-3**
EN374-3 Resistance to chemical hazards (permeation)	**1-6**

Devices Directive 93/42/EEC

The Medical Devices Directives classifies devices according to the potential hazard, expected duration of contact and expected invasiveness. If a product conforms to the Medical Devices Directive it must carry a CE mark on its packaging and may also provide a statement of its classification. In addition, the properties of medical devices are described by a range of standards.

Classification of Devices

Class I Non-invasive devices, for example, examination gloves (entry into a bodily orifice is not considered invasive). Class I is generally regarded as low-risk.

Class I – Sterile Sterilised Class I devices, for example, sterile procedure gloves. Class I is generally regarded as low-risk.

Class IIa Short-term invasive devices, for example surgical gloves. Class IIa is generally regarded as medium-risk.

Information pertaining to a product's classification within the Medical Devices Directive can be obtained from individual product datasheets on the RS website.

NEXT

BACK

THE RS SITE SEARCH FACILITIES

The facilities on our site have been updated to dramatically enhance the search and filter experience.

Filter by **Brand** - 5 brands available from industry-leading manufacturers; plus our own great value RS brand disposable gloves.

Glove Type – We have organised our disposable gloves range into three main types – Chemical Resistant, Minimal Risk or Medical – to help you narrow down the right type of gloves for you.

European/American Safety Standard – Where gloves have been tested in accordance with relevant EN or ANSI Standards those standards will be detailed here. For example, EN374-2 or ANSI ABR 4.

Click here for more information around standards and compliance for disposable gloves.

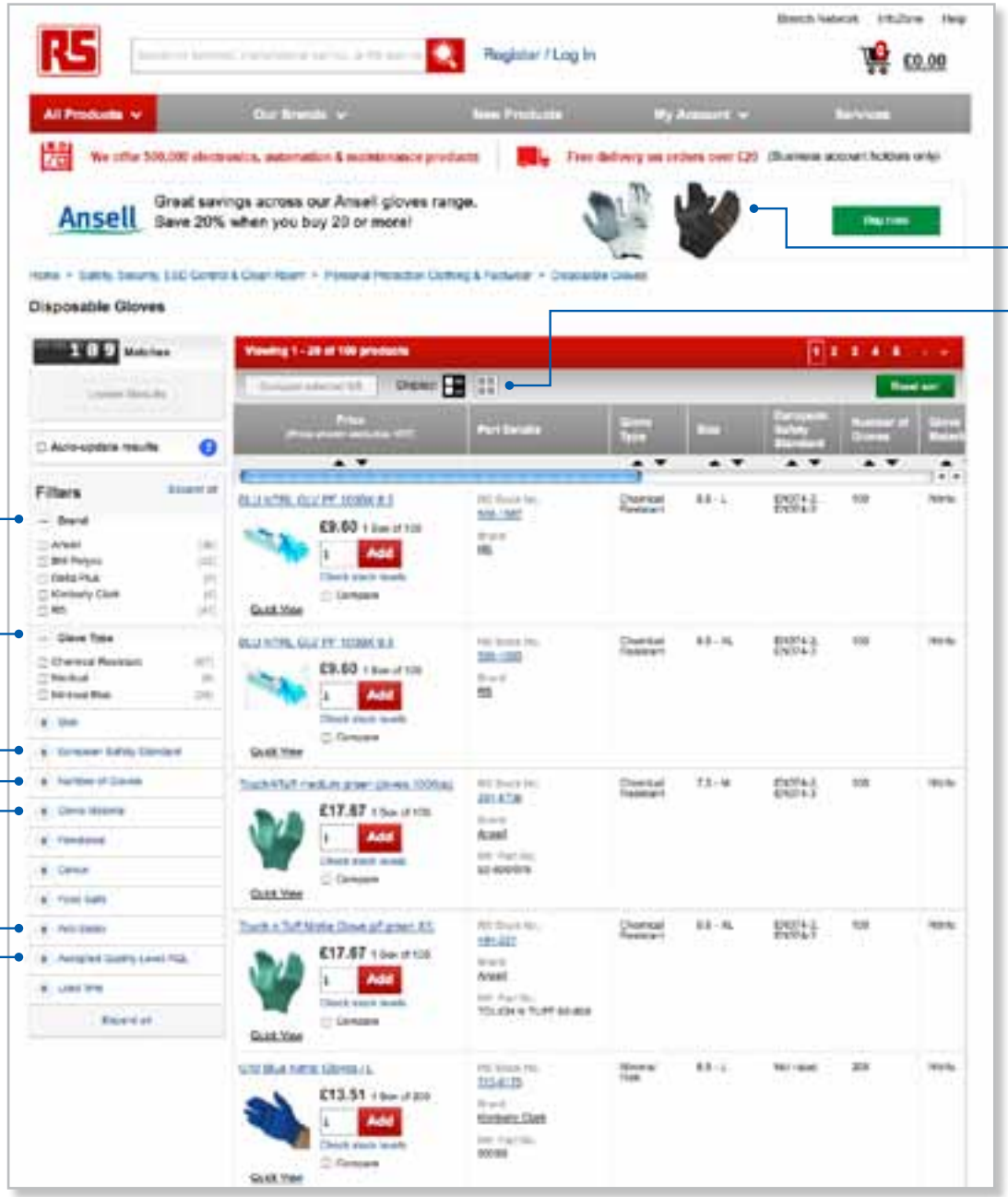
Number of Gloves – For clarity, here we detail the number of individual gloves you will receive, rather than number of pairs.

Size, Material & Colour – You can also filter by size; choose a specific material type should you have precise requirements; or filter by a particular colour if required.

Powdered, Anti-Static, Food Safe – These specifications provide additional details about a product and allow you to filter in necessary requirements.

Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) – this relates to the maximum number of defects you can expect per 100 gloves. For example, European Standards state that medical examination gloves shall have an AQL of 1.5. This means that it's acceptable for up to 1.5% of gloves made to contain a pinhole.

Disposable Gloves Search Page



Special Offers
These are updated regularly and are selected relevant to your search.

Display – there are three ways to display results: **List View, Compare View** and **Grid View**.

NEXT

BACK

GO TO RS WWW

DISPOSABLE GLOVES

Number of Gloves: gloves are available in bulk packs which represent a great saving. Our web site also offers bulk discounts on the complete range. Feel free to contact us directly to obtain a quote.

Disposable Glove Sizes:
Because gloves from various manufacturers vary in size we have simplified our disposable gloves range into standardised size categories. See pages 8 and 9 for details and a sizing guide to help you get the perfect fit.

Powdered or powder-free: powdered gloves assist in putting the glove on which makes them the ideal choice for those who need to change gloves frequently; whilst powder-free gloves are ideal for environments where product contamination is a potential issue.

Colour: this describes the glove colour.

DISPOSABLE GLOVES

Food Safe: indicates whether the glove is suitable for food contact.

Anti-Static: Anti-static materials are generally referred to as any material which inhibits triboelectric charging. This is the buildup of an electric charge by rubbing or contact with another material. The term 'anti-static', however, does not refer to resistance or resistivity as required in an ESD-protected environment and ESD-safe disposable gloves can be found within the ESD Control & Clean Room section of the RS web site.

Acceptable Quality Level (AQL): this relates to the maximum number of defects you can expect per 100 gloves.

For example, European Standards state that medical examination gloves shall have an AQL of 1.5. This means that it's acceptable for up to 1.5% of gloves made to contain a pinhole.

BACK

SHOP THE RS RANGE TODAY - GO TO RS WWW

