

Ansell



LIMITATIONS OF LEATHER

WHY LEATHER IS AN UNSUITABLE CHOICE IN DEFENCE AGAINST WORKPLACE HAZARDS

Despite inherent shortcomings as a suitable barrier to workplace hazards,

the humble leather glove is still widely employed as a general-purpose hand protection solution in many industries.

Leather gloves are still being used in most industries. They are perceived as long lasting and robust, or just an old habit...

But in various instances, as a protective material, leather performs poorly and only enjoys ongoing popularity because of some commonly held misconceptions.



AN UNSUITABLE CHOICE: SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Understanding the limitations of leather will lead to better decision making in hand protection selection.



The following erroneous beliefs have given leather an undeserved reputation.

Leather repels water

Leather offers poor protection against liquids. Some forms, such as cow-hide, stiffen when re-dried, limiting both flexibility and tactility. It also offers no thermal defence when wet, meaning the wearer will experience discomfort along with a loss of mobility.

Leather is durable

Despite being regarded as long lasting, leather is still susceptible to wear and tear. More importantly, if a glove offers the wearer little or no protection against hazards, product life span is a meaningless measure.

Leather offers cut resistance

Leather's reputation and use against cut injury is unwarranted, as it is one of the poorest rating materials — even heavy cotton canvas outperforms leather in cut resistance testing.

The heavier, the better

Thick leather offers no more protection than a lighter weight alternative. In fact, heavier leather impedes grip, movement and dexterity, making it difficult to work with tools or small components.

Comfort & fit

Leather is one of the least comfortable material options. Sewn flat, gloves usually feature irritating interior seams. Leather lacks the fit, form and breathability of other available materials.

A (false) economy

Selecting a general-purpose solution in the name of economy is more expensive in the long run, potentially leading to productivity loss, injury and decreased moral. Providing a glove choice that meets the demands of a task increases safety policy compliance.

WHY PURPOSE-DESIGNED AND BUILT IS BETTER



Applying a one-size-fits-all approach to hand protection and opting for general-purpose leather gloves ignores the significant technology advances that deliver better products and improved safety.

Design based on actual conditions

Product enhancements through design, material and process improvements are derived from direct observation of real-world working conditions. The result is a glove developed specifically to defend against actual, rather than assumed, risk.

Clever construction

Increasingly specialised knitting technology blends engineered synthetic and natural fibres into high performance yarns that deliver exceptional comfort and protection.

Suitability

No two work sites are the same, so why would one glove type suit the needs of every application? Purpose-designed gloves guarantee the highest levels of protection against known risks — general purpose gloves do not.

Investment not cost

Protecting workers is an investment, not a cost. Coating technology advances have delivered a more enduring product, making them a better long-term choice with a lower cost-per-wear than cheaper alternatives.

CONSIDER GETTING A GUARDIAN

There are many hand protection options available today — the choice can be overwhelming. Too much choice can lead safety and operations managers to opt for the simplest alternative, which may explain leather's enduring popularity.

Worker safety is too important to be guided by over-simplification, which is why Ansell's Guardian service is a smart alternative. A personalised assessment that matches glove materials and choices to your specific application, Ansell Guardian removes the risk and takes the guess work out, reducing potential glove options and simplifying the selection process.

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