

GLOVES FOR HANDLING STEEL

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Abstract

Gloves serve many purposes in the galvanizing operation. This presentation will deal with gloves for the handling of steel during racking.

- Firstly I would like to say that your testing should override anything I might say or imply
- Secondly the gloves/ materials described are relatively common in the market place.
- For most plants one size/style does not fit all: we are dealing with many hazards.

Depending on the type of product you run racking is the most demanding area of the plant. Historically you would see a leather glove here however with the improvements in the synthetic gloves we are starting to see some really good synthetic gloves. While the synthetics do cost more they have been yielding some impressive results.

What are the issues in racking?

- Impact
 - o Most leather glove don't have any impact protection
 - o Most types of synthetic gloves are available with injection rubber on the backhand while there is no guarantee that this will protect against any impact it sure beats a piece of canvas.
- Cut
 - o Leather gloves do not have a cut rating as leather is a natural fiber and can vary from cow to cow. That being said most Leather gloves test around a cut level 2*
 - o Most synthetics are available in cut level 2-5 depending on Manufacturer
- Puncture
 - o Once again Leather gloves do not have a puncture rating as it is a natural fiber.
 - o Most synthetics are available in about any puncture level.
- Grip
 - o This is really a judgment call as they both start out with pretty good grip however leather has a tendency to absorb oil eventually getting through the gloves.
 - o While synthetic with a nitrile coating will not absorb oil however over time you may see an oily coating – in most cases you can wash your hands with the gloves on at the end of a shift and they are good as new at the start of next shift.

Keep in mind when choosing a glove for racking there are common types of injuries that gloves can help avoid. Why and how often are gloves being replaced? Most workers like leather gloves BUT they don't last long enough to be economical.