

Latex

List of Common Products which May contain Latex

<u>Medical Products</u>	<u>Household Products</u>
Urinary catheters	Rubber toys
Stethoscope tubing	Balloons
Endotracheal Tubes	Cleaning gloves
Piggyback IV ports	Electricians gloves
Tourniquet	Condoms - Diaphragms
EKG straps and electrode pads	Shower curtains / mats / & other rubber mats
Penrose Drains	Pacifiers
Ambu bags	Band-Aids
Ventilator bellows	Baby bottles
Masks (anesthesia, oxygen)	Elastic waist bands
Gloves (unless stated on label or box	Elasticized fabrics
Adhesive tapes	Adhesives
Multiple- use medication vials	Hot water bottles
Blood pressure cuffs	Sport racquet handles
Nasal airways	Carpet backing
Elastic on surgical bonnets or shoe covers	Rubber bands
Elastic bandages	Toy balls
Dental dams	Rubberized bed sheets
Pads on crutches	Swim caps/ some goggle straps
Wheel chairs cushions (Roho) and tires	Some tires

Some of these products may have been replaced or be available in a non-latex. This list was made in the early 1990's.

What are the Symptoms and Differences Between a Type I or Type IV Latex Reaction ?
See the following handout.....

Allergic Contact Dermatitis - Considered a Type IV Allergy
Latex Sensitivity Education Handout

Allergic contact dermatitis, also known as delayed hypersensitivity, is a specific immune response to chemical additives to latex during processing. Blisters or a rash resembling eczema appear on the back of the hands some 48 - 96 hours after exposure. The skin can become dry, thickened, and crusted. **Guidelines for Type IV:**

- Avoid using latex gloves. Your department has several options to order a non-latex glove, such as Nitril. Many gloves “look” like latex. Read the label on the box of gloves.
- Avoid inhaling powder from other’s gloves.
- Wash hands with a mild soap after removing gloves and air-dry frequently.
- Use cotton glove liners if hand dermatitis is present or for wet work.
- Inform your department manager and EHS of your reaction and progress

Immediate Allergic Reaction - Type I

Latex allergy (immediate hypersensitivity) can be a more serious reaction to latex than contact dermatitis or allergic contact dermatitis. Certain proteins in latex may cause sensitization (positive blood or skin test, with or without symptoms). The amount of exposure needed to cause sensitization or symptoms is not known, exposures at even very low levels can trigger allergic reactions in some sensitized individuals. Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure to latex, but they can occur hours later and produce various symptoms. **Mild reactions** to latex involve skin redness, hives, or itching. **More sever reactions** may involve respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, scratchy throat, and asthma (difficult breathing, coughing spells, and wheezing). **Rarely, shock may occur:** but a **life threatening reaction is seldom the first sign of latex allergy**. Such reactions are similar to those seen in some allergic persons after a bee sting. **Guidelines for Type I:**

- Avoid all forms of exposure to latex (see lists for medical and household items)
- Inform your department manager and EHS of this reaction
- Follow EHS Protocol for Type I latex allergy reaction.
- Wear a Medic Alert Bracelet to indicate allergy (alerts Paramedics if you are in a car accident and unconscious)
- Carry / have available epinephrine self injection kit if indicated by physician. (Epi-Pen usually has 2 doses per pen / check date. Do not let expire).
- Carry non-latex gloves and emergency medical instructions (i.e., glove compartment of car).
- Avoid areas where you might inhale the powder from latex gloves worn by others.
- Beware of the risk of increasing reaction if exposure to high levels of latex continues.

Gloves in kits made by manufacturer’s can be a latex powdered glove. If you need to add a sterile non-latex - non-powdered glove, do so. UCDHS does use Sterile Non- Powdered Latex for sterile procedures. Some areas, such as the Operating Room has Sterile Non-Powdered Non- Latex Gloves available to staff who are Type I.

Do not order Latex gloves for personal use, as you may not be aware of a colleague, or non-responsive patient who is.

There is no data to support that Latex gloves provide the only protection against diseases or chemicals.

Please follow up with EHS if you were identified as a Type I or Type IV as it is important to us to keep you on a medical surveillance program while you are employed.

For all new hires who were noted with one of these reactions, return to EHS after you have obtained your ID badge so we can place a sticker that clearly states you have a” latex allergy”.