



## PU Coated Cut-Resistant Gloves

Did you know that when looking for a PU Coated Cut-Resistant Glove, many of the various material descriptions listed are basically all the same? There may be some slight variances in the weave or thickness, but most are really just different trademark names or descriptions for the same thing, just from different manufacturers:

- Dyneema®
- HPPE (high performance polyethylene)
- UHMWPE (ultra high molecular weight polyethylene)
- Wooltran®
- Spectra®

These are all names of continuous filament polyethylene that basically offer similar features such as cut/abrasion resistance and great dexterity. Sometimes you will find these materials mixed with Lycra which gives the glove the stretch or spandex-like characteristic. The PU coating (polyurethane) is one of the easiest coatings to stick to this fabric, so it is commonly available in this format. Spun glass (or some call it “fiberglass”) is another material listed that, despite providing a higher level of cut protection at a lower cost, often doesn’t last as long as the other materials and is commonly viewed as “scratchy” to the skin. Gloves with stainless steel material come at a higher cost and higher level of cut protection, but might also not be as comfortable and are subject to the scratching or poking feel (similar to the glass fiber material) that can occur when the glove becomes worn. The tiny stainless steel fibers can “break” after a period of time and cause

this poking sensation. This doesn't happen to all the gloves, but some customers have described this phenomenon.

Just remember that cheap gloves with a high cut level might not be the right approach. You sometimes get what you pay for, but selecting a glove can be a challenge. It may require trying the glove over a period of time and getting feedback from workers. Indeed, sometimes "glass fiber" and "stainless steel" woven fibers work excellent in certain customer situations (it sometimes depends on the application and how long you expect a glove to last).

It also depends on the "application," as UHMWPE type fabrics perform better with sharp edge sheet metal and glass than they do with a razor blade (where you might find another fabric may perform better). They are incredibly abrasion-resistant compared to say "Kevlar." This is why, when helping our customers, the Conney Safety Specialists really wants to hear details about the application of the cut glove and what the customer has been using (and how long it is lasting).

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