



Mechanics vs. Impact vs. Anti-Vibration Gloves

Did you know that although some of the gloves in these categories appear to be very similar, there are some distinct features and requirements that set them apart for specific applications?

Impact gloves can be designed to address impacts to both the back and the palm side of the hand. Impact gloves with knuckle guards and impact pads on the back of the fingers are made to address impact to the dorsal (back) part of the hand and knuckles. These gloves will often have some type of padding on the palm as well.

Impact gloves can also just have gel or foam padded palms and may be full fingered or fingerless. The fingerless style allows for greater dexterity while the full finger style provides greater protection for the hand and fingers. Applications include oil drilling, automotive, and heavy manufacturing environments.

Anti-vibration gloves will normally have a special gel or foam padding in the palm and should be full fingered in order to provide proper protection from repetitive impacts and vibrations that can lead to HAVS (Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome). Applications include use of powered, pneumatic, and hydraulic hand tools (including jack hammers and hammer drills for concrete).

Finally, mechanics gloves offer a variety of options that sometimes include features similar to the above categories. General mechanics gloves made from leather/synthetic leather offer basic protection and good grip but other styles may also include features such as a padded palm or knuckle guards that we saw in the previous categories. Applications include automotive and utility work.

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