

Cosmetic Gloves

What's in a Cosmetic Glove?

As a rule, passive and myoelectric arms require a cosmetic glove which fits over an inner hand. The glove serves to both protect the internal mechanism of the hand and to provide a good cosmetic appearance. Originally, cosmetic gloves were only made of a material called polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Other materials have been introduced – specifically silicone, micro-coated vinyl (MCV) and micro-coated silicone (MCS).

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

PVC cosmetic gloves are still often used and are the least expensive option. A common complaint with PVC gloves is that they stain easily. The material absorbs substances like grease and ink, making them difficult to remove.

Silicone

Silicone is highly stain-resistant and easy to clean. The nature of silicone means different levels of colour matching are possible, from one colour to multiple colours that results in a very lifelike glove. Silicone is the most expensive glove option, though some companies are offering more affordable off-the-shelf options.



Micro-Coated Vinyl (MCV) or Micro-Coated Silicone (MCS)

MCV and MCS are protective coatings that are available on Centri gloves. The result is a glove that resists marks, is easier to clean and has less friction against clothing. It has also been reported that with the micro-coating, ink from newspapers or pens will come off using the company's Cleani-Stump antiseptic wipes.

Glove Care

Cleaning

- Clean your glove daily using a mild soap such as dishwashing liquid, cool water and a damp cloth. Do not use soaps that are antibacterial or contain alcohol.
- If a glove becomes stained, wash it immediately with a gentle cream cleaner, or a tissue. Some prosthetic manufacturers make glove cleaners which can be ordered through your prosthetic centre.
- NEVER use harsh kitchen or bathroom cleaners, paint thinner or remover, or other solvents to clean your glove.
- Some amputees have found Mr. Clean Magic Eraser or laundry sticks to be helpful.



- Nail polish can be worn, but should be removed often. The softening agent in your glove will make the polish smear and stain the glove. It is best to scrape the polish off, rather than use nail polish remover.

Preventative Maintenance

- Wear a white cotton work glove or a disposable rubber glove to protect your cosmetic glove when using items that could leave a stain, such as mustard, ink, newsprint, shoe polish, markers, paint and wood stains, printer ink, lipstick, lacquer or varnish, and ballpoint pens.
- Some amputees apply Nivea Cream, hand lotion or cream cleanser once a week to keep their gloves clean and soft. Rub it in gently with your fingers or a sponge, and remove the excess with a soft white cloth.
- Sharp objects, such as scissors, knives, or nail files, can cut or puncture a glove. Once there is even the smallest hole, the glove will keep on ripping and will need to be replaced.
- Cover small holes with clean plastic tape until the glove can be replaced.
- Cosmetic gloves are waterproof and can be worn while washing dishes, but if the glove has a tear, DO NOT put the hand in water. The best advice is to NEVER immerse your myoelectric arm in water.



Did You Know...

Did you know that rubbing a fresh fabric softener sheet over the surface of your silicone glove will reduce the friction against clothes? No more plastic bags! Just remember to clean your silicone glove every day to avoid build-up.