

Piercer Periodical

March, 2021. v1.2

Gloves: No glove, no love



This month's deep dive.

Gloves. Something we take for granted daily and something that you don't often second guess when using or purchasing. This month, we hope to change that.

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A brief history of gloves

Considered the most used safety item in our piercing studios, gloves play such a huge part of our daily lives — however we don't usually spend more than a few seconds thinking about them. Your first thought would most likely be that disposable gloves were invented for cleanliness during surgeries, however the real reason was actually quite different. (Spoiler alert: It was for love!).¹

Over 100 years ago, William Halsted, a well respected and pioneering professor at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Hospital, noticed that the chief nurse of the operating room, Caroline Hampton, began to develop severe contact dermatitis on her hands from the harsh mercuric chloride cleaning chemicals.

Halsted, with his growing affection towards Hampton, asked the Goodyear Rubber Company to produce a pair of thin rubber gloves to protect what he called her "gentle blood" from the harsh chemicals.



William Halsted, pictured in 1922



Shortly after presenting her with the gloves, which he made to fit plaster casts of her hands, they became married and by 1894 Halsted had started sterilizing the gloves and using them at the hospital.²

Although many surgeons were first sceptical of the gloves, fearing they would dull their sensation or cause them to slip when performing surgery, by the early 1900s all surgeons were wearing sterile rubber gloves based on his original design.

It wasn't until 1964 that Ansell made the first disposable gloves, based on their condom manufacturing techniques, and surgeons began using gloves Sterilised by gamma irradiation and disposing of them immediately after surgery.

Today we almost take them for granted to not only protect our clients, but also to protect ourselves from bloodborne pathogens.

¹ <https://www.pastmedicalhistory.co.uk/the-history-of-surgical-gloves/>

² hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/rubber_gloves_born___and_now_banished___at_johns_hopkins

Types of gloves used in body art

Although we generally emulate the medical and dental industries, in both safety protocols and personal protective equipment, we actually have vastly different and significantly less specific requirements as piercers.

We really need to understand our specific needs in order to pick what we require and not just purchase the most expensive or the most easily accessible types.

The most common materials for gloves are:

- Latex
 - Previously the cheapest and most readily available
 - A natural rubber protein derived from a tree
 - Common to acquire a sensitivity or allergy from long exposure or extended use
 - Breaks down over time from moisture and warmth while wearing
- Nitrile
 - Created from a chemical polymer
 - Generally considered standard for body piercing services
- Vinyl
 - Created from a chemical polymer
 - Tears much easier than other materials
 - A cheaper alternative to Nitrile for general cleaning
 - Not appropriate for client services or biological waste handling
- Polyisoprene (PI)
 - A synthetic polymer latex that mimics the characteristics of natural rubber latex
 - Great similar feeling alternative for latex
 - Generally come pre-sterilised using gamma irradiation

Glove functionality can vary, but are generally labeled as such:

- Examination gloves
 - Can be purchased sterile or non-sterile
 - Usually medium length cuff and most commonly nitrile
- Surgeon's gloves
 - Come Sterilised and significantly longer sleeve
 - Very specific needs in mind for specific industries, such as oral or extended use
- Food handling gloves
 - Not designed for handling chemicals or open wounds
- General cleaning gloves
 - Will not be labeled for medical use and should only be used for intended purpose

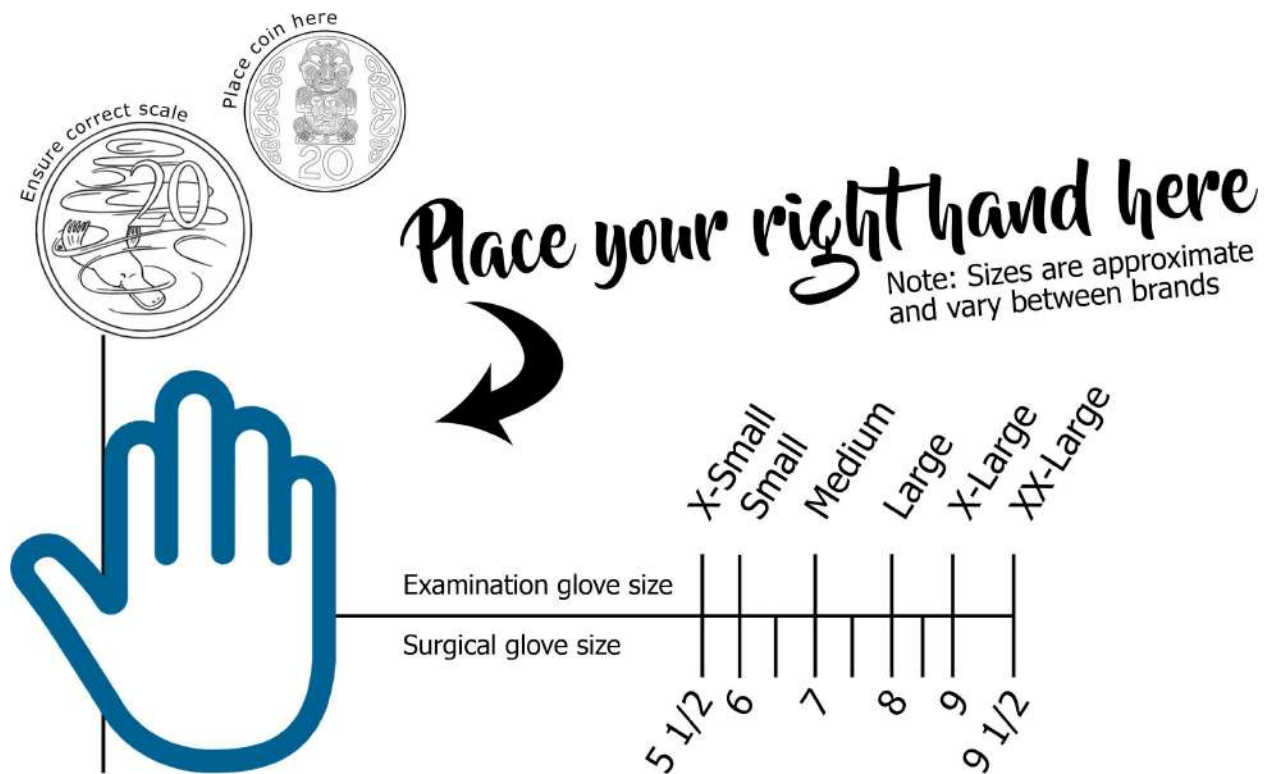
How to get the right size glove

Getting the perfect glove is more than just picking the right brand with the right features, it's also about getting the right size for your unique hands.

Too tight and you can risk hand fatigue, dexterity or even breakages during donning — too loose and you risk loss of sensation and important tactile feedback during procedures.

The majority of companies will offer free testing samples to any practitioner that requests them to ensure you can get the right fit for your hands and that they meet your desired needs. Don't be afraid to ask for a variety of samples by brands and materials in order to get the right fit, elasticity and thickness.

Glove sizing chart



What are all these symbols?

If you take a look at the symbols on your glove boxes, you will notice a series of familiar looking icons. They are actually ISO 15223-1:2016³ symbols (www.iso.org) and indicate specific medical uses.

Although you shouldn't need to memorize what each symbol means, it's good to know what they mean when shopping for new gloves and ensuring you are using them for the correct procedures.



The minimum and maximum temperature limits to which the medical device can be safely exposed



Recyclable Cardboard
(box enclosure)



Intended for a single use, or for use on a single patient during a single procedure

EN374-1:2003



Chemical Hazards
(Low chemical resistance)



Sterilised by aseptic processing



Sterilised by ethylene oxide



Sterilised by dry heat or steam



Sterilised by irradiation



Safe for food contact

EN 374-2



Protective against
chemicals and
microorganisms

³ <https://www.iso.org/standard/69081.html>



CE marking indicates that a product complies with applicable European Union regulations



The date after which the medical device is not to be used (expiry date)



The user to consult the instructions for use



The date when the medical device was manufactured



Needs to be protected from moisture



The medical device manufacturer (brand)



Should not be used if the package has been damaged or opened



The manufacturer's batch code or lot can be identified



Normally provided sterile in the same or similar (packaging has not been Sterilised)



Manufacturer's catalogue number so the medical device can be identified

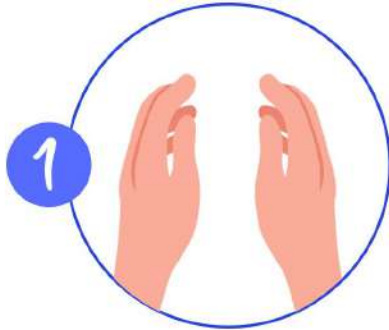


Keep away from heat and radioactive sources

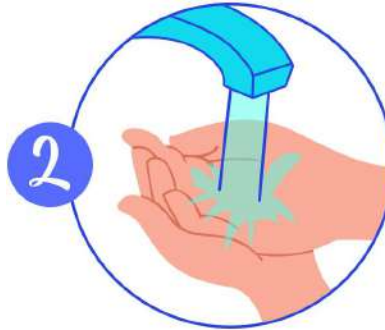


Keep away from sunlight

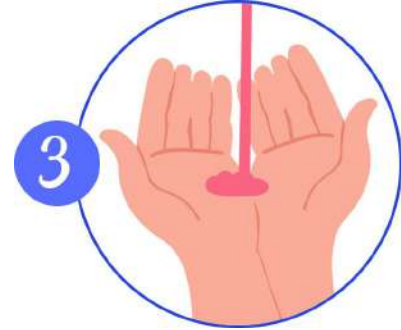
How to wash your hands correctly and safely



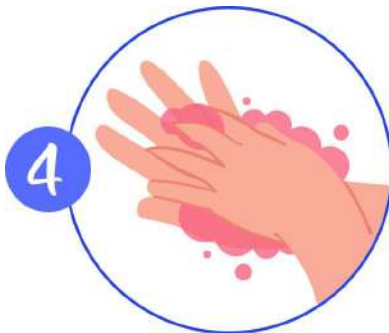
Remove everything from mid forearm down (watch, rings, bracelets, etc)



Wet hands with hands free tap



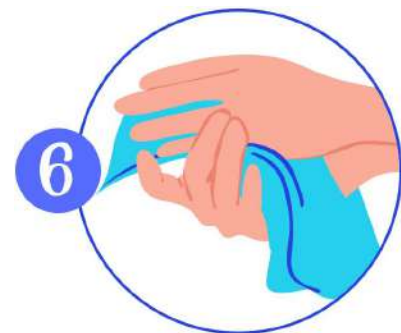
Apply gentle hand soap with hands free technique



Lather for 15-30 seconds - including palms, interlace fingers, nail-beds, thumb and wrist



Rinse thoroughly under warm water



Dry hands thoroughly using disposable paper towel or hands free dryer

The key to washing your hands efficiently is understanding that when you lather with soap, you are encapsulating dirt/oil/germs and then rinsing them away. You don't want to use harsh chemicals as you will damage your skin which can lead to open wounds and put yourself at risk.

Why the big switch to nitrile?

For decades disposable gloves have been a staple in piercing studios. For many years latex was the most popular choice, though with concerns of allergies amongst both clients and staff, many studios have made the switch to nitrile instead.

We have all heard of latex allergies before. They can range from a mild rash to life threatening anaphylaxis. Most people who are allergic to latex have had frequent exposure to it over time⁴. Specifically exposure to the proteins that are found in the natural rubber latex, a product derived from rubber trees. During the AIDS epidemic in the 1980's many medical professionals sought to protect themselves with latex gloves. This resulted in a surge of latex allergies in both medical professionals, and in patients who had frequent treatments and surgeries. By the mid 1990's latex allergies were considered to be a major health issue.

Approximately 5% of the general population and 10% of healthcare workers are allergic to latex⁵. The higher rates among medical personnel are due to the larger and longer amount of exposure compared to the general population. As practitioners who might spend 20, 30 or 40 hours a week wearing gloves, this puts us at the highest risk of developing an allergy.

In addition to the inhalation of latex proteins, the most severe reactions come from contact with internal or broken skin⁶. Working with fresh and unhealed piercings as well as tissue inside the mouth, nose and genitals, it's easy to see how a simple piercing procedure can become a life threatening anaphylactic reaction.



Many tattooists also became aware that petroleum jelly (and other oil-based salves) would break down the latex glove barrier and release additional allergens while simultaneously compromising the glove's integrity.⁷

It's not only in the procedure room that latex gloves are used in the piercing studio. Gloves are also used when completing many other tasks such as cleaning, processing jewellery or even showing jewellery to a client at the counter. When latex gloves are used they will deposit proteins. Powdered latex gloves carry an even higher risk due to these proteins becoming airborne when donning and doffing the gloves. Since we know these proteins are what cause the allergic reactions, it would be impossible for an allergic client to avoid contact with them while in the piercing studio, even if they don't enter the procedure room.

⁴ <https://www.allergy.org.au/patients/other-allergy/latex-allergy>

⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5356959/>

⁶ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/latex-allergy/symptoms-causes/syc-20374287>

⁷ <https://www.actmonline.com/vendor/laravel-filemanager/files/actm-latex-glove-survey-report-june-2005.pdf>

Since a latex allergy can present as life threatening anaphylactic shock within minutes of exposure⁸, precautions must be taken. An allergy that is disclosed at the last minute can easily result in the need to tear down your setup and re sterilise your instruments, a process that costs both time and materials. Situations such as these are what prompted the Johns Hopkins Hospital - who are credited as the first hospital to introduce latex gloves - to be also one of the first to transition to latex free⁹.

With all this in mind, it's easy to see why ditching latex gloves is an essential step towards managing client and staff safety in your studio. In fact, it would be even more beneficial to go one step further and replace latex rubber bands, adhesive bandages and other latex products in your studio as well.

Many latex free options have come about due to allergies. Arguably the easiest accessible for us as body piercers are nitrile gloves. Nitrile offers a more tear and puncture resistant option. It comes in various strengths and flexibilities and is widely available throughout Australasia. Most of all, nitrile has a very low allergy risk, and very low risk of developing an allergy.

You might happen upon some resistance among staff when implementing a change to nitrile gloves. It's comforting to know that most people find nitrile to be just as comfortable and effective as latex and that staff will adjust to the different material over time, just like the surgeons at Johns Hopkins (and many other hospitals and piercing studios around the world) also have.

Many medical suppliers will offer samples from different brands, or sell single boxes. This way you can try a few and see which design will meet your comfort, dexterity and sensitivity needs.

While nitrile does not offer a completely allergy free alternative, you can rest assured that allergies to nitrile are far less common. In fact most nitrile allergies come from added chemicals known as accelerators¹⁰. They are commonly a specific type of reaction that can affect only the skin under the gloves. Though accelerator free options are available for people who are highly sensitive to these additives, you can also try different brands which often use different accelerators and may result in a reduction of sensitivity for yourself.

Latex allergies are relatively common and easy to develop in those who are exposed to it often. Since we work with gloves all day every day and latex allergies can be life threatening, it's important to consider making the switch to a safer material in the piercing studio. Taking the time to find a material and brand that best suits you needs as well as having a plan in place for the transition, will make it a lot easier for both you and your staff. Truly one of the best benefits of switching to nitrile gloves in the piercing studio is the peace of mind both you and your staff can enjoy, knowing that latex allergies are one less thing to worry about.



⁸ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/latex-allergy/symptoms-causes/syc-20374287>

⁹ <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2008-01-15-0801150337-story.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/preventing-glove-allergies-2>

Latex Allergy Rates

Many of our clients may not know they have a sensitivity to latex as they may just assume the extra swelling or redness are part of their normal inflammatory period of a fresh piercing. Symptoms may also present on other parts of the body and may not show for 12-36¹¹ hours after the initial contact.

Latex allergy Rate	Number of study subjects	Country	Year
6.4%	1,099	Australia	2004 ¹²
6.4%	1,000	USA	1996 ¹³

These tests were done with a skin-prick test, which is the recommended method for allergic studies.¹⁴

Latex allergy rates among medical practitioners

It is well-recognized that latex allergies are an occupational allergy¹⁵ as the prolonged use of latex gloves can trigger allergies and sensitivities in the wearer that they were not aware of prior.

Latex allergy Rate	Number of study subjects	Country	Year
22.1%	140	Australia	1997 ¹⁶
5%	804	USA	2012 ¹⁷

Latex contamination

Latex gloves are made from dipped rubber, which shed natural rubber latex particles that stay suspended in the air and may be inhaled or eventually settle onto surfaces or people in the vicinity.¹⁸

This also means that even if all surfaces are immediately cleaned prior to a latex allergic client entering, there is still a risk of particulates contaminating the procedure and affecting the client.

You should consider this when choosing gloves to use around our studios, even if it's just for cleaning.

¹¹ <https://www.webmd.com/allergies/latex-allergy-symptoms-treatment>

¹² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15240339/>

¹³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15240339/>

¹⁴ <https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/skin-prick-testing>

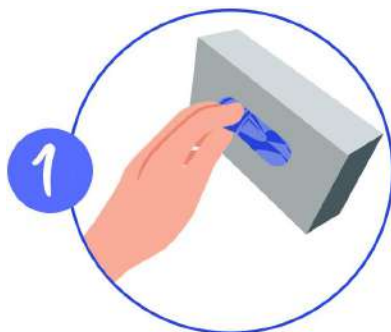
¹⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5356959/>

¹⁶ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9145180/>

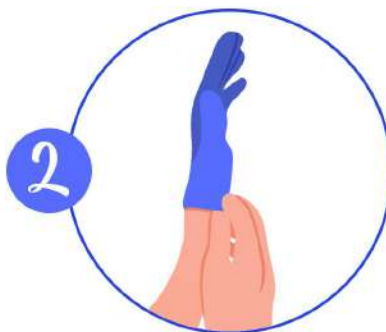
¹⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23062385>

¹⁸ <https://non-toxic-home.org/f/what-is-latex-cross-contamination>

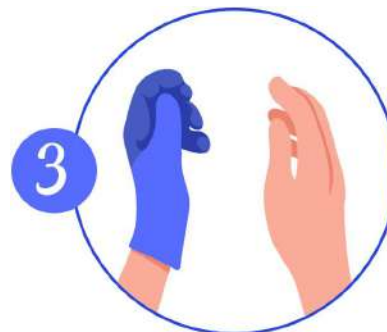
How to don examination gloves safely



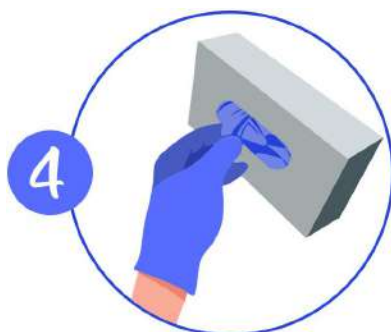
1 Remove a single glove from the box by removing it via the cuff (where possible)



2 Slide the glove onto your non-dominant hand by the cuff and pull to secure



3 You are halfway there! Remember to not adjust fit just yet

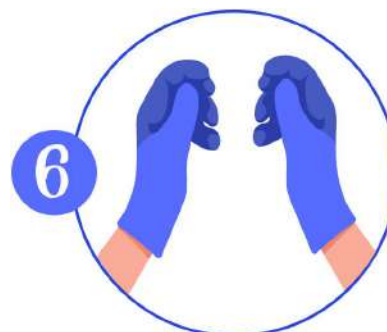


4 Remove the next glove, this time with your gloved hand

Note: It's a great time to prepare the next glove for next time, by adjusting it so the cuff is partially out



5 Slide on your second glove and adjust by pulling on the outside of the cuff. You can now adjust fingers if necessary.



6 You are all donned!

Remember to hold your hands up when you aren't using them to reduce contamination

Do gloves expire and what to do with them after?

Expiration of examination gloves

Although we often think of exam gloves as not having an expiry date, as they are not sterile, they are generally marked as a maximum of **4-5 years** from the date of manufacturing for Nitrile gloves (and is even less for Latex gloves).¹⁹

Generally this is listed on the back of the box, alongside manufacturing dates.

After this specified time period the materials can begin to deteriorate, break down, and become brittle. This results in a higher chance of pinholes and breakages as well as potential contamination.



Storing Nitrile gloves

- Do not remove from their box prior to use
- Do not store in direct sunlight or close to fluorescent bulbs
- Keep away from extreme temperatures (usually listed on the box between 10°C and 30°C)
- Keep away from potential moisture contamination (for example under a sink)
- Keep clear of electrical equipment (including autoclaves, transformers, air conditioners, etc)
- Store on their side when opened (preferably in a wall mount) to minimize dust contamination
- Don't open the seal until you are ready to use them

What to do with expired gloves?



Got some odd sized gloves from ex-staff? Don't just throw them out, ensure you clearly mark the box "for cleaning only" and use them when cleaning your windows or benches around the studio. They can also be handy for arts and crafts use or maintenance around the studio where integrity isn't critical.

Another use for your sterile gloves, outside of the sterility date, is to add them to your First Aid kit or in your car for a space efficient and easily accessible single pair of gloves.

¹⁹ <https://www.pidegreegroup.com/The-shelf-life-of-disposable-nitrile-gloves-id6221406.html>

Regulations

Health department regulations and code of practice for skin penetration services differ from state to state and although the AUPP recommend very high standards of aseptic technique - you should know your minimum legal requirements in order to comply with local regulations and codes.

Territory	Disposable Gloves	Sterile Gloves	No-Touch Technique
NSW	20	21	
WA	22		
VIC	23	24	
ACT	25		
QLD	26		27
SA	28	29	
NT	30		
NZ	31		32

Green: Required by state regulations

Blue: Suggested by state regulations

²⁰ <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/body-piercing.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/beauty-treatment.aspx>

²² https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/-/media/Files/Corporate/general-documents/communicable-diseases/PDF/Code_of_Practice_for_Skin_Penetration.ashx

²³ <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B2FD5585B-66CF-48B8-B315-7449F83EF9F6%7D>

²⁴ <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B2FD5585B-66CF-48B8-B315-7449F83EF9F6%7D>

²⁵ https://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-09/Infection_control_guidelines_for_office_practices_and_other_community_based_services_2006.pdf

²⁶ <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B17E871B1-753F-4741-8816-511A3F014B6E%7D>

²⁷ <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7B17E871B1-753F-4741-8816-511A3F014B6E%7D>

²⁸ <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0/skin-penetration-guide-10feb05.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0-nwJXZt4>

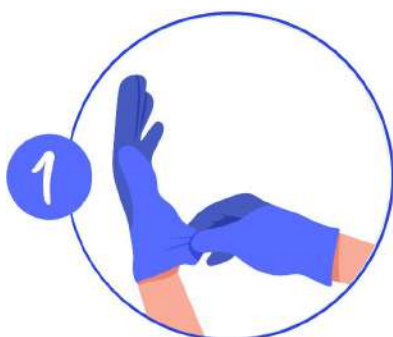
²⁹ <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0/skin-penetration-guide-10feb05.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0-nwJXZt4>

³⁰ <https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjsui/bitstream/10137/1151/1/Public%20and%20Environmental%20Health%20Guidelines%20for%20Hairdressing%2c%20Beauty%20Therapy%20and%20Body%20Art.pdf>

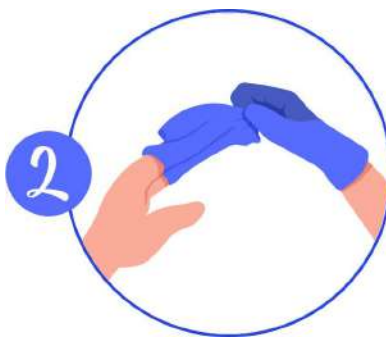
³¹ <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/skinp.pdf>

³² <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/skinp.pdf>

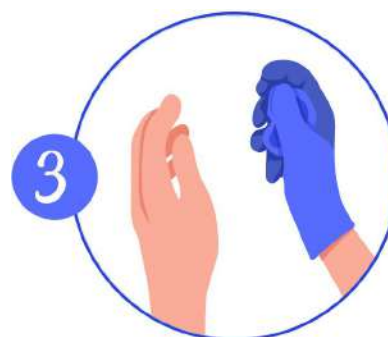
How to doff (remove) gloves safely



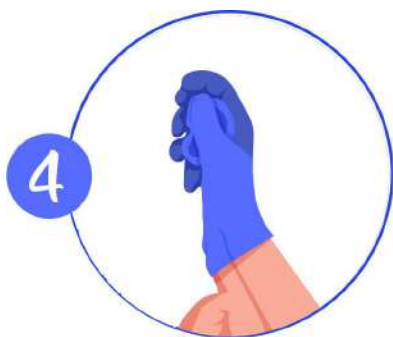
1 Pinch the outside cuff of the wrist on your dominant hand



2 Pull outwards, to turn your non-dominant hand's glove inside out



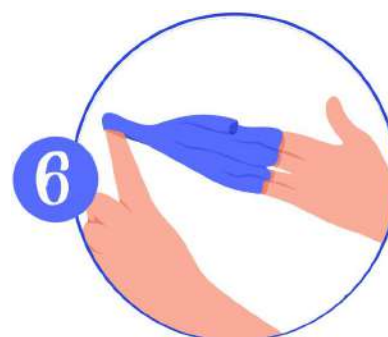
3 Keep the removed glove in the palm of your other hand.



4 Using your ungloved finger, slide it under the INSIDE cuff



5 Pull outwards, to turn your your glove inside out

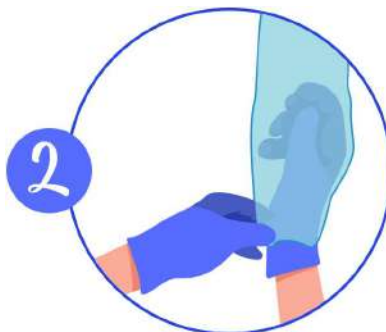


6 Continue pulling slowly until glove is entirely removed and can be safely disposed of

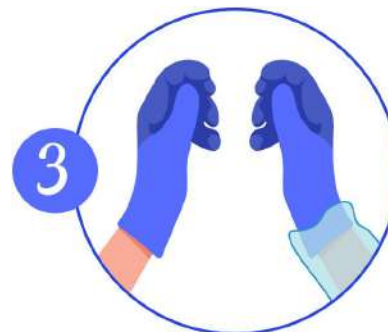
How to double glove and sleeve safely for tool reprocessing



1 Start with a fresh pair of correctly sized examination gloves



2 Pull arm-sleeve over gloved hand



3 Ensure sleeve sits over the top of cuff



4 Pull sleeve over your other arm



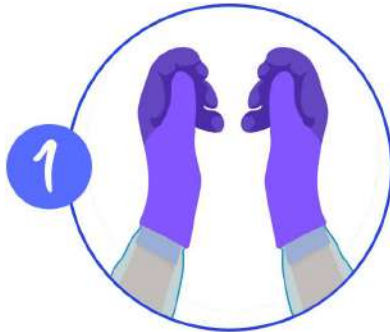
5 Don a second pair of examination glove **OVER** the arm sleeve (preferably a different color)



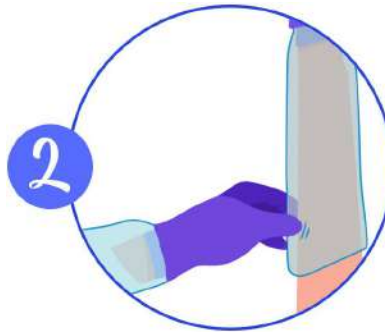
6 Check regularly for visibility of under-gloves to detect potential punctures

Information courtesy of Ryan Oullette (www.patreon.com/ryanpba)

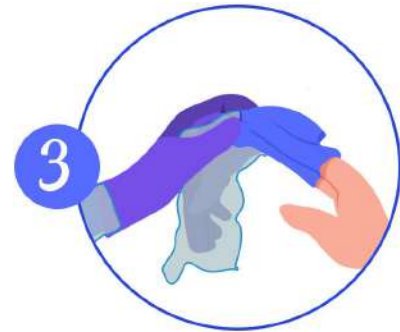
How to safely remove PPE after tool reprocessing



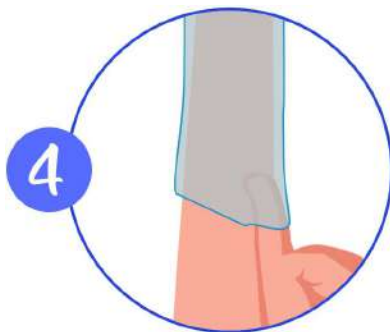
1
You should consider the exterior of both pairs of gloves and sleeve contaminated



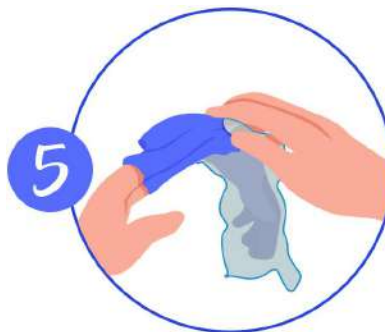
2
Begin by grabbing the OUTSIDE of your dominant sleeve and pull outwards



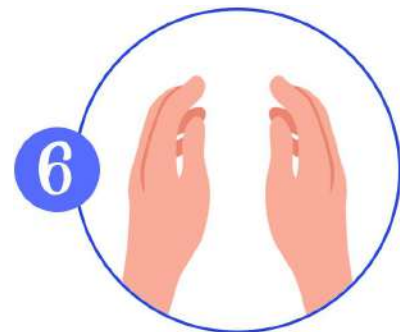
3
Ensure you collect both pairs of gloves in the process and not to touch skin



4
Now insert your dominant hand's index finger INSIDE the other sleeve



5
Remove sleeve and both pairs of gloves, ensuring to only touch the INSIDE of gloves and sleeve

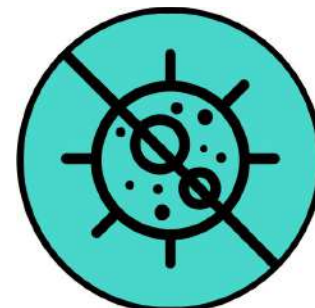


6
Now you should wash your hands before removing mask or other facial PPE

Sterile Gloves

Why and when should we use sterile gloves?

Boxed examination gloves, although not ‘dirty’, should be considered contaminated by design as they are left open and exposed to airborne pathogens, environmental contaminants and potentially even bugs. Making matters worse is that they are usually packed tightly together and therefore can’t be easily individually removed or donned without touching the exterior of the glove or surrounding gloves in the box.



This means that you should consider the exterior of your examination gloves the same as your washed hands, as they can have any pathogens that were present before putting them on. Responsible piercers ensure that their needles, jewellery, tools and dressings are sterile — so they should treat their gloves the same, which often touch all of these items during a procedure.

Even though not always stated as a requirement, nearly every state (NSW³³, QLD³⁴, NT³⁵, VIC³⁶, NZ³⁷) has published documentation recommending the use of single use sterile gloves when in contact with sterile equipment such as procedural tools or jewellery.

How are sterile gloves different?



Not only are they individually wrapped and Sterilised, they are also made to a higher standard than their non-sterile counterpart as they are cleaned better, handled more safely, packaged more securely and stored significantly better than their non-sterile counterpart.

They also need to be opened and handled differently than boxed gloves to ensure they remain sterile as they do not provide ‘magic’ protection from cross contamination.

The general consensus is that even if sterile gloves are used incorrectly, they are still made to higher standards than their non-sterile version and therefore can be seen to have little to no disadvantage when related to safety of clientele and piercers³⁸.

³³ <http://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/standards-for-body-piercers.pdf>

³⁴ https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/430642/infectcontrolguide.pdf

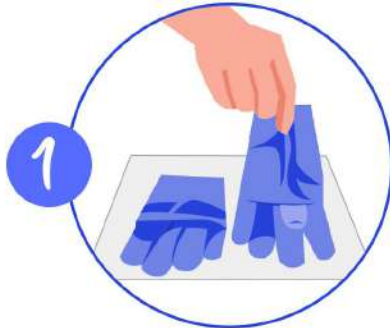
³⁵ [https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/bitstream/10137/1151/1/Public and Environmental Health Guidelines for Hairdressing%2C Beauty Therapy and Body Art.pdf](https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/bitstream/10137/1151/1/Public%20and%20Environmental%20Health%20Guidelines%20for%20Hairdressing%20Beauty%20Therapy%20and%20Body%20Art.pdf)

³⁶ <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BA1338751-226F-43B0-A3C8-09E4B254DF22%7D>

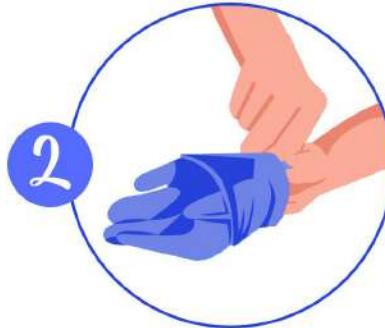
³⁷ <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/skinp.pdf>

³⁸ <https://brnskill.com/shares/sterile-gloves-use-rationale>

How to don sterile gloves safely



1 Remove a single glove from your sterile field, ensuring to ONLY touch the INSIDE of the cuff



2 Slide the glove onto your non-dominant hand, again ensuring to only touch the INSIDE of the cuff



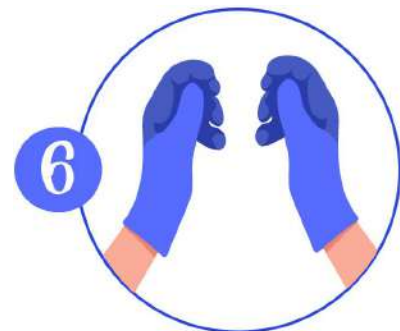
3 Grab your second glove from the sterile field by sliding your fingers in between the cuff and the palm



4 Pull down the glove onto your dominant hand ensuring to do so only from inside of the cuff



5 Finish by pulling the cuff by the inside onto your wrist



6 You are all set!
Remember to only touch Sterilised things with sterile gloves

Should you buy or DIY sterile gloves?



The majority of exam gloves can be sterilised, as long as they are powder and latex free and have enough cuff length to allow aseptic donning. Nitrile is generally capable of natural thermal protection up to 250°C without sustaining damage, but remember that non-sterile gloves are generally made to lower Acceptable Quality Level than pre-purchased sterile gloves.

The main issue with sterilizing gloves yourself is to ensure preparation and sterility are done comparable to their pre-sterile counterpart.

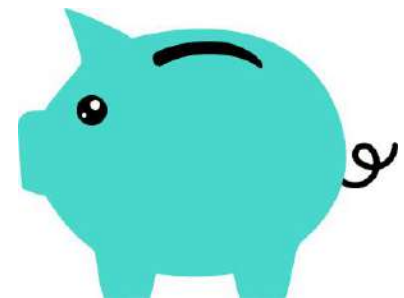
The extra effort alone may overwhelm the cost/benefit ratio. If you are running them in your Statim and break or contaminate a glove during a procedure then you will need to run another Statim cycle or have pre-packaged on hand to replace it. If you are bagging them, then you may need to wait 24-48hrs before using them to ensure that their elasticity returns to normal and aren't sticky when donning.

The general view from the professional industry is that you should use pre-sterile gloves wherever possible, as even if they are used incorrectly they are still made to a higher standard than non-sterile gloves³⁹. Alternatively sterilizing your own gloves can offer a better alternative than using the same glove unsterile, and supplement shortages when sterile gloves are not easily accessible.

What about the extra costs of sterile gloves?

The simple answer to this question is, you pass the extra cost (either financial or from your time) on to your clients as part of the procedure.

You can also use the opportunity to explain the careful aseptic measures you take as a professional piercer, which add value and exemplify your respect and care for the client.

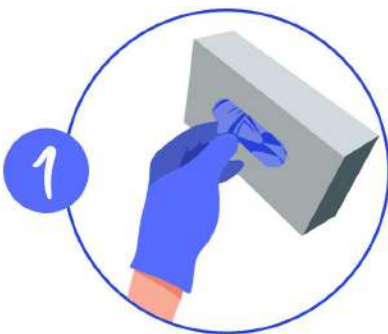


Although we often factor into a piercing price 3-4 pairs of gloves, you really only need a single pair of sterile gloves for the actual piercing and non-sterile examination gloves should be used for everything else that is non-critical.

When broken down into your pricing, the extra cost will be negligible when compared to the safety you're giving your clients and given the choice your clients will be more than happy to pay the small amount extra.

³⁹ <http://brnskl.com/shares/statim/#h.fgj52jj132hi>

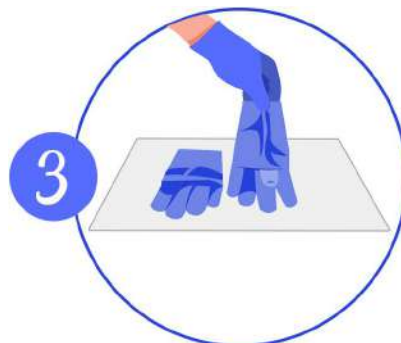
How to sterilise examination gloves



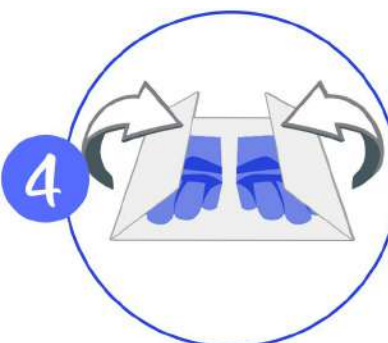
1 Start with a pair of long cuff nitrile examination gloves



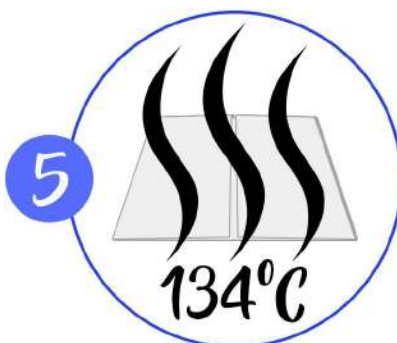
2 Ensure all creases and folds are smoothed out fold the cuffs



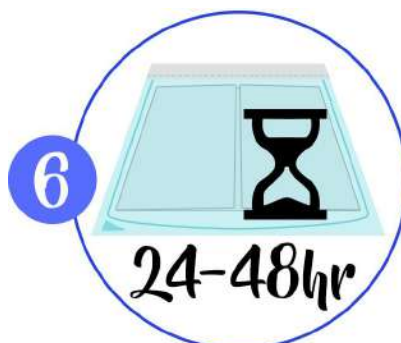
3 Place next to each other on a nonwoven CSR/TNT material aseptic drape



4 Fold drape inwards so that gloves are not touching each other and cuffs are easily accessible⁴⁰



5 Autoclave sterilise using a class B or class S autoclave program at 134°C and adequate drying cycle



6 If not for immediate use out of a Statim, allow 24-48hrs to allow elasticity to return and prevent tackiness⁴¹

⁴⁰ brnskll.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Steps-of-wrapping-gloves-for-steam-sterilization.pdf

⁴¹ brnskll.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/PROCESSING-SURGICAL-GLOVES-Appencix-C_Gloves-Johns-Hopkins.pdf

When should you put examination gloves on?

- During set-up and break down for a procedure
- When handling sterile autoclave pouches, as their materials are porous to skin oils
- When handling jewellery, both new from manufacturer and in your displays
- When examining a client's anatomy, even if they don't have a piercing yet
- When cleaning or using cleaning chemicals around your studio
- When handling client's jewellery, even if it hasn't been worn yet
- When handling contaminated or potentially contaminated tools, equipment or surfaces

When should you 'double glove'?

- Only when reprocessing used tools to decrease the chance of personal contamination, especially when not using thick utility gloves during manual cleaning
- Preferably with different colours to aid in visual indication of breakage⁴²
- Not recommended during procedures as you can experience a decreased sensation⁴³
- Finding the most appropriate glove combination may require experimentation

When should you don sterile gloves?

Ideally you want to don your sterile gloves as late as possible during a procedure, just before needing to handle any sterile items. Doing so will not only ensure minimal exposure time, but it can also reduce the chance of you having to change gloves if you have forgotten something.

Remember that the only way to keep something sterile is to wear sterile gloves when touching it.

When should you change your gloves?

Generally you want to move from cleanest to dirtiest to minimize changing your gloves, however the following situations should immediately require redonning of gloves.

- When cross contamination has or may have occurred, like accidentally touching yourself or an unprepped part of your client (including their hair)
- When you need to go from dirty to clean, eg cleaning a bin then cleaning a workstation
- If you suspect your glove integrity may be damaged or punctured

⁴² https://www.ansellhealthcare.com/pdf/edPro/RN_CEU_DoubleGloving_Final.pdf

⁴³ <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-03-gloving-exposure-pathogens.html>

Gloves when handling jewellery and tools

Although studies have shown a negligible difference in cytotoxic effect when gloved or ungloved while handling tools prior to sterilization⁴⁴, it is considered general safe practice to wear gloves when handling tools or jewellery prior to sterilisation or sale to minimize antigens or contamination.

You should keep at least a single box of examination gloves near your front counter to be used when handling jewellery in your displays. These can also be used when handling client's worn jewellery and general cleaning. This is especially important when handling porous materials such as wood or display stands which can retain natural oils that are present on our hands.

Gloves when handling autoclave pouches

As autoclave pouches are generally made from PET/PP translucent copolymer film front and medical kraft paper backings, they should always be handled with care after sterilization. It is recommended to wear gloves when handling or transporting pouches as they may be pervious to natural skin oils.

Environmental impact of gloves

Acylonnitrle and Butadiene are both released into the air and water during manufacturing of nitrile gloves, however are only toxic in high levels⁴⁵.

Although latex gloves do biodegrade at a much faster rate, nitrile gloves are in fact also biodegradable.

Nitrile gloves that end up in landfill will slowly break down and decompose naturally where ones that are incinerated release water CO2, nitrogen oxide and non-toxic oxide into the atmosphere.

Specifically designed biodegradable accelerator-free nitrile gloves can also be purchased, which can biodegrade up to 20% in 160 days with full biodegradation within 1-5 years.⁴⁶

Glove Recycling

It is common knowledge that the exterior cardboard boxes of gloves can be recycled, but many don't know that in Australia there is a company called TerraCycle⁴⁷ that can recycle used disposable nitrile gloves (as long as they have not been contaminated with infectious or pathogenic matter).



⁴⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5068903/>

⁴⁵ <http://www.designlife-cycle.com/life-cycle-of-nitrile-rubber-gloves>

⁴⁶ <https://www.mdsassociates.com/biodegradable-single-use-nitrile-gloves>

⁴⁷ https://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/zero_waste_boxes/plastic-gloves-en-au

Price comparison list

Prices are (to the best of our ability) accurate as of March 2021 and price/availability is subject to change without notice. Prices listed are ex GST. The AUPP does not endorse any specific glove manufacturer or distributor and can not guarantee quality or availability of the following products.

Nitrile Examination Gloves

Celeste

- Nitrile
- XS, S, M, L, XL
- Powder Free
- Standard Cuff length
- Textured fingertips for grip
- Violet blue colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
bpmedical.com.au	\$27.74	\$0.55
protatsupplies.com.au	\$28.00	\$0.56
teammed.com.au	\$49.40	\$0.99
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$51.87	\$1.04
mcfarlanemedical.com.au	\$52.00	\$1.04

Protex

- Nitrile
- XS, S, M, L, XL
- Powder Free
- Standard Cuff length
- Beaded cuff for easier donning
- Textured fingertips for grip
- Blue colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
joyamedicalsupplies.com.au	\$21.90	\$0.44
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$29.16	\$0.58
mcfarlanemedical.m.au	\$28.00	\$0.56

Ni-Tek

- Nitrile
- XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Powder Free
- Standard Cuff length
- Thicker than standard nitrile gloves
- Matt Black colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
medisa.com.au	\$35.00	\$0.70
livingstone.com.au	\$37.28	\$0.75

Inhealth

- Nitrile
- XS, S, M, L, XL
- Powder Free
- Standard Cuff length
- Blue colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
vitalmedicalsupplies.com.au	\$18.96	\$0.38
matrixdental.com.au	\$26.55	\$0.53

Sterile Procedural Gloves

Aegis Sterile

- Nitrile
- XS, S, M, L, XL
- Powder Free
- Extended Cuff
- Textured grip fingertip
- Violet blue colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
bpmedical.com.au	\$95.32	\$1.91
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$95.32	\$1.91
mcfarlanemedical.com.au	\$98.00	\$1.96

Protexis PI Sterile

- Synthetic polyisoprene
- 5.5,6,6.5,7,7.5,8
- Powder Free
- Thinner for better feel
- Light brown colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
joyamedicalsupplies.com.au	\$99	\$1.98
capemedical.co.nz	\$152.09	\$3.04
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$157.70	\$3.15

Protexis PI Micro Sterile

- Synthetic polyisoprene
- 5.5,6,6.5,7,7.5,8
- Powder Free
- Thinner for better feel
- Interlocking beaded cuff to stop roll down
- Light brown colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
capemedical.co.nz	\$94.55-\$98.92	\$1.89-\$1.98
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$125.00	\$1.92
teammed.com.au	\$148.34	\$2.97

Gammex Polyisoprene Sterile Glove

- Synthetic polyisoprene
- 5.5,6,6.5,7,7.5,8
- Powder Free
- Extended Cuff
- Textured fingertips for grip
- Light pastel green colour

Store	Price per box	Price per pair
henryschein.com.au	\$190-\$200	\$3.80-\$4.00
vitalmedicalonline.com.au	\$145.30	\$2.90

AUPP Member Corner

COVID-19 and its effect on the AUPP

We don't need to talk about the effect that the COVID19 pandemic has had on the piercing industry, but for the association it also has created some roadblocks. Many things that were planned for 2021 such as classes and conferences have had to be pushed to next year. This has resulted in a surplus of money for the association as it is unable to be used on what it was planned to be in 2021. With this in mind, being a not-for-profit organisation, we have decided to make 2021 membership free! All members who have paid 2021 fees will receive a refund.

We also recognise that COVID has created a lot of new and interesting hurdles for all of us, that many of us have been focused on navigating a lot of new things in our studios. It's likely that meeting new AUPP requirements has not been something in the forefront of everyone's mind. As such we have decided to push back the 2021 requirements until 2022, making the requirements for 2021 the same as 2020.

Meeting Membership Requirements

Ensuring that you meet or exceed the minimum AUPP member requirements is an important part of our association's and industry's growth moving forward.

2022 Requirements (previously 2021)

- Uses single use non-latex gloves for skin penetration procedures
- Disposable non-latex gloves at jewellery displays/counter for handling jewellery
- Uses PPE for manual tool reprocessing (if applicable), including: disposable gloves

2023 Requirements (previously 2022)

- Uses sterile single use non-latex gloves for skin penetration procedures



Supporter Highlight



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5% DISCOUNT
for AUPP members

