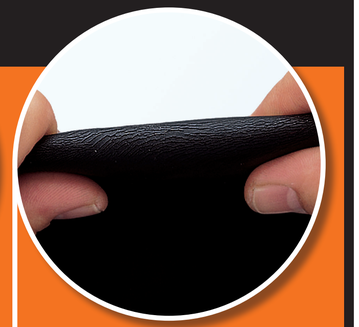
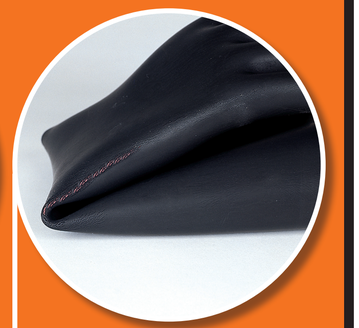
COMMON RUBBER PRODUCT PROBLEMS TO LOOK FOR

Cracking & Cutting:
Shown above is damage caused by prolonged folding or compressing.



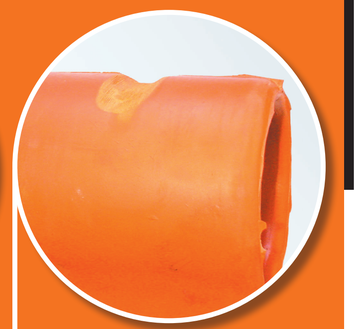
UV Checking:
Storing in areas exposed to prolonged sunlight causes UV checking.

Chemical Attack:
This photo shows swelling caused by oils and petroleum compounds.



Avoid Folding: The strain on rubber at a folded point is equal to stretching the rubber to twice its length.

Snags: Damage shown here is due to wood and metal splinters and other sharp objects.



Physical Damage: Rope burns, deep cuts and puncture hazards are cause for rejection.

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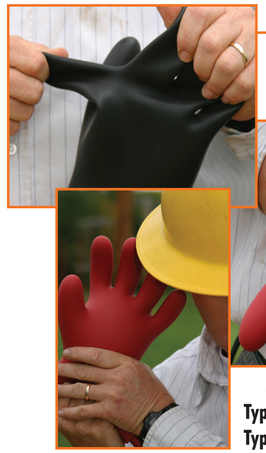
RUBBER GOODS CARE & INSPECTION



INSULATING RUBBER GLOVE & SLEEVE CARE

Before Use:
Inspect gloves and sleeves for holes, rips or tears, ozone cutting, UV checking and signs of chemical deterioration.

Proper Glove Inflation:
Inflating gloves makes cuts, tears or ozone damage easier to detect. Expand no more than 1.5 times their normal size for Type I, and 1.25 times normal for Type II SALCOR®. Listen for escaping air to detect holes. If a portable inflator is unavailable, roll the cuff tightly to trap air inside, then apply pressure to areas of the glove to inspect for escaping air. Repeat procedure with glove turned inside out.

MAXIMUM INFLATION SIZE:
Type I Gloves: 1.5 times normal
Type II Gloves: 1.25 times normal

G100 Portable GLOVE INFLATOR KIT

Sleeve Inspection:
Inspect sleeves along the edge as they are rolled. Rolling will stretch the sleeve along the edge, making cuts, tears and ozone cutting more visible. Repeat with sleeve turned inside out.

Storage:
Proper storage extends the service life of linemen's gloves and sleeves.
Folds and creases strain rubber and cause it to crack from ozone prematurely. By storing rubber gloves and sleeves in the right size bag or roll-up, and never forcing more than one pair into each bag, equipment will lie flat and last longer.

Refer to ASTM F1236, standard guide for visual inspection of electrical protective rubber products for additional information.

Type I natural (not resistant to ozone) and Type II SALCOR® synthetic rubber (resistant to ozone) both provide electrical workers with the highest level of electrical insulating protection. However, in order to maintain this level of protection and ensure long life, it is essential that rubber goods are properly cared for and stored. Before each use, rubber goods should be visually inspected for holes, rips or tears, ozone cutting, UV checking and signs of chemical deterioration, contamination, physical damage and embedded wires. Refer to ASTM F1236, standard guide for visual inspection of electrical protective rubber products for additional information.

INSULATING RUBBER BLANKET CARE

Blanket Inspection:
Roll blankets in order to locate scratches, tears, abrasions, snags, corona cutting or age-cracking. The blankets should be rolled two times on each side with the second roll at a right angle to the first. Blankets that show any signs of the damage described above should be removed from service. The ASTM In-Service Specifications call for an electrical retest at least every 12 months. A visual inspection in the field should be performed at least every 6 months.

Blanket Care & Storage:
Blankets should always be stored flat or rolled in blanket roll-ups or canisters. They should never be folded, creased or compressed in any manner. When more than one blanket is stored, the most convenient method of loading is to roll and insert each blanket into the canister independently. A single blanket can then be removed without removing the others. Do not use tape of any type to hold the blankets in the rolled position. The adhesive plasticizer can damage the blanket surfaces. Both Type I and Type II SALCOR® elastomeric compound blankets are subject to damage by petroleum base products. Also, never stand on or place blankets on the ground. This will increase the possibility of cuts, snags, snares and punctures.

INSULATING RUBBER LINE HOSE CARE

Before Use:
Rubber insulating line hose, hoods and covers should be thoroughly inspected inside and out for cuts, scratches, corona cutting, holes, tears and punctures, aging, rope or wire burns and texture changes such as swelling, softening, hardening, becoming sticky or inelastic.

Line Hose Care & Storage:
If mechanical damage extends one third the wall thickness of the hose or hoods or if there are signs of chemical deterioration, they should be removed from service. Line hose, hoods and covers should be wiped clean of any petroleum base product as soon as possible after contact. They should be stored in a relaxed position, without distortion and mechanical stress. Tape shall not be used to secure these items when shipped or stored.

RUBBER GOODS CARE & SAFETY IS A 2 STEP PROCESS:

1) **Daily inspection in the field, using the guidelines on this poster.**

2) **Periodic visual inspections and electrical testing according to ASTM standards and your company's safety program.**

The Voltgard Test Lab® at Saf-T-Gard® International is the largest independent, NAIL4PET-accredited rubber goods test lab in the country, and is qualified to inspect and test your:

- Rubber insulating gloves
- Rubber insulating blankets
- Rubber insulating sleeves
- Rubber insulating line hose
- Jumpers and grounding cables
- Matting
- Hot sticks
- Plastic guards
- Dielectric footwear
- Insulating hand tools
- Covers
- Hoods

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COMMON GLOVE PROBLEMS TO LOOK FOR

Contamination: Discard protectors contaminated with oil or petroleum compounds.

Embedded Wires: Inspect for embedded wires or metal shavings that could puncture rubber gloves.

Avoid Storing Inside Out: Storing reversed gloves strains the rubber severely and promotes ozone cutting.