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Gloves... Get A Grip!

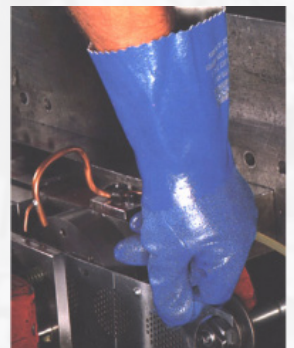
Ready Mixed Concrete Production and Hand Protection

Whether it's at the plant or at the jobsite, working in the ready mixed concrete industry holds the potential for hand injuries. Due to the potential for hand injuries, OSHA requires industries, such as ready mixed concrete, to require personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against these injuries. To combat hand injuries, the industry relies heavily on engineering and work practice controls, but also PPE, specifically gloves. It's important to know that gloves should be the last line of defense for eliminating hand injuries, and also that not all gloves are the same. If engineering and work practice controls cannot be relied on to remove hand injuries, then the correct type of glove shall be required to address the specific hazard, operation, and task. Ready mixed concrete producers should survey their plants and work sites and analyze different tasks to determine what types of gloves are needed. Not all gloves are designed to protect against multiple functions and hazards. In an effort to limit and eliminate industry hand injuries, numerous ready mixed concrete companies have moved to a 100% glove policy. This means that regardless of position in the company, regardless of task or job function, anyone physically at one of their ready mixed concrete plants is required to wear gloves. These same companies have seen dramatic declines in hand injuries due to this policy.



What to Know About Hand Protection and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

While working at or visiting a concrete plant, or when delivering fresh concrete to a construction site, types of hand injuries can include bruises, cuts, abrasions, fractures, burns, skin absorption, frostbite and even amputation. To prevent these types of injuries, glove selection is crucial and should rely on factors such as chemical handling, nature of contact (splashing, immersion, etc.), duration of contact, grip requirements (dry, wet, oily, dusty, etc.), thermal protection, size, comfort, and abrasion resistance. There are generally four types of glove groups, depending on the hazard, to choose from: leather, canvas, or metal mesh; fabric and coated fabric; chemical- and liquid-resistant; and insulating rubber gloves. Within each of these categories there may also be specific types of gloves to meet the specific hazard. As with any PPE, before utilizing the PPE, employees need to be trained on when to use the specific type of glove, how to don and remove the gloves, store, and clean the gloves.



Hand Protection... Dos and Don'ts

- Think first
- Before using gloves, try to eliminate the hazard
- Determine hand injury hazards before using gloves
- Use the right type of glove for the specific hazard
- Know how to handle gloves before and after their use

Resources

OSHA: [Personal Protective Equipment Guide](#)

OSHA: [Personal Protective Equipment Factsheet](#)

NRMCA Safety Series: [Personal Protective Equipment Program](#)

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