

Safely Dealing with Latex Allergies

Latex is a natural substance used in making disposable gloves and other products. Some workers are sensitive to latex and can have a severe reaction.

Symptoms

- Nasal, eye, or sinus irritation
- Hives or rash
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing, wheezing
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you have any of these symptoms you should be evaluated by a doctor. The best way to reduce allergic symptoms is to avoid latex, but there are some medications that can help as well.

Latex in the workplace

Your employer is required to provide gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at your worksite or issue them to you. If you are allergic to latex-containing PPE, alternatives are available. Glove liners or powder free gloves can be used to reduce exposure.

Appropriate work practices can also reduce the chance of reactions to latex. If you must wear latex gloves, oil-based hand creams or lotions (which can cause glove deterioration) should not be used unless they reduce latex-related problems and maintain glove barrier protection. After removing latex gloves, wash your hands with a mild soap and dry them thoroughly.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: fwcruminsurance.com