

NURSERY & FARMWORKER ALERT

Latex Gloves Can Cause Dangerous Allergic Reactions

Some people who work with latex gloves may have serious allergic reactions. Some problems that latex gloves can cause are:

- Red, itchy skin rash
- Hives
- Itchy, watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Sinus problems
- Breathing problems (asthma)
- Life-threatening reactions

How can you get an allergic reaction from latex gloves?

- If you wear or touch latex gloves
- If you touch something that someone else has touched with latex gloves
- If you breathe latex particles that are in the air

Who can get allergic problems from latex?

- Workers who wear latex gloves a lot
- People who have allergies, hay fever, asthma or skin problems
- Customers in places where workers handle plants with latex gloves

How can we prevent latex allergy problems?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) says that latex gloves can cause serious allergic reactions. Employers and workers should follow these directions:

- Do not use latex gloves in crop, ornamental plant, or nursery production areas.
- Employers should provide workers with non-latex gloves such as vinyl, knit fabric, or synthetic latex, depending on the tasks performed.

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