

# WHY YOU SHOULD MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM POWDERED GLOVES TO POWDER-FREE GLOVES??

Glove powders have been used as lubricants for users to don gloves a bit more easily. And though it could absorb excessive moisture from hands, a part of healthcare workers would choose to wear powdered gloves if their hands tend to sweat.

However, despite the possible benefits that powdered gloves may bring you, there comes many more disadvantages you should be aware of.

## DANGERS OF POWDER ON MEDICAL GLOVES

### 1. Glove powder causes adhesion and granuloma

It's been well documented that cornstarch powder could result in intestinal obstruction due to the peritoneal adhesion and cornstarch granuloma.

### 2. Glove powder pushes bacterial growth and thus affects wound healing

Postoperative wound infection occurs more often when powdered gloves are used for surgery.

### 3. Glove powder may trigger or aggravate hands eczema/dermatitis

Glove powder could lead to hand dermatitis. Symptoms may include redness, itching, pain, cracks and blisters of the skin.

### 4. Glove powder prompts the development of latex allergies and asthma

Powder on natural rubber latex gloves could raise the risk of developing latex-induced hypersensitivity such as Type I and Type IV allergies because of frequent exposure to glove powder.

Act just like an allergen carrier, cornstarch powder may increase antigen-induced bronchoconstriction, resulting in a severe asthmatic reaction for both patients and healthcare workers.



## COMMON DOUBTS ABOUT POWDERED GLOVES AND POWDER-FREE GLOVES

### 1. Powder-free gloves are not easy to wear

With the improved manufacturing technique, nowadays powder-free gloves can be put on effortlessly through the treatment of chlorination or the polymer coating in the manufacturing process.



## 2. Powdered gloves are less expensive than powder-free gloves to hospitals?

Just the opposite, hospitals might just spend more by using powdered gloves.

Glove Type	Time & Cost	Risk
Powdered	2-3 extra minutes for removing powder with sterile wet sponge. Sterile wet towel costs around USD 0.6/piece.	Still facing the risk of powder not being completely removed.
Powder-free	None	None



## COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BANNED/WILL BAN THE USE OF POWDERED GLOVES

**Germany** has implemented a regulation banning the use of glove powder since 1998.

**U.K.**, the National Health Service has ceased to purchase powdered medical gloves since 2000.

**USA**, on January 18, 2017, the rule set by FDA to ban powdered surgeon's gloves, powdered patient examination gloves and absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon's glove becomes effective.

**Japan** has requested that switching to powder-free gloves by the industry must be completed by the end of 2018.

**Philippines** issued a public health advisory on June 20, 2017 that it shall implement the gradual switching to powder-free gloves and eventually phase out powdered gloves, and shall be completed by the end of 2018.

**Make a Better Choice That Brings You Healthy Hands and Healthy Patients by Choosing Powder-Free Gloves!**

### References

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