

HANDLE WITH CARE

Technicians in the automotive industry are no strangers to a bit of oil and grease. In many cases, however, these substances actually present a safety hazard. Fortress Distribution offers a helping hand.

Transmission and brake fluids are among the most dangerous fluids found in vehicles. When these fluids are changed or even simply topped up, there is a chance they could spill on a technician's hands. After prolonged contact, they can be absorbed through the skin. The resulting health risks can include nerve damage, weakness in the affected areas and even paralysis. Additionally, eye irritation and redness can occur if these fluids come into contact with the eye if, say, a contaminated hand touches the face.

Many automotive mechanics are now protecting their hands by wearing gloves. This provides a barrier between their hands and the fluids and greases they come into contact with while working on vehicles. While the benefits of wearing gloves are obvious, there is some debate regarding which glove material is best, especially when choosing between latex and nitrile.

Mechanics wanting a tough, durable high quality disposable glove that still allows dexterity for precise tasks, need look no further than the Black Mamba nitrile disposable glove. Black Mamba gloves offer a secure and tactile grip, whilst providing sensitivity for delicate, precise tasks, as required by technicians.

At over 6mm thick, these nitrile gloves offer a comfortable fit, and better puncture



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and tear resistance than standard latex disposable gloves. The Black Mamba Torque Grip is a powder-free nitrile disposable glove designed with a Torque Grip pattern over the entire hand, to optimise surface performance and allow for a reliable grip.

Both the Black Mamba and the Torque Grip provide an effective barrier against oils, acids and other chemicals found in a commercial workshop. The gloves are ideal for use during servicing, oil changes, battery replacement, painting and many other routine tasks.

If the application requires a technician to use a latex glove, such as one that offers protection against ketones, including MEK

and acetone, then a 'low-protein, powder-free' latex glove should be specified. These chemicals are often used in solvent thinners and degreasers in automotive applications such as body shops. Here, a heavy-duty, extra-long cuff latex glove, such as the 14mm thick Pro Blu Mamba, should be the preferred choice.

As well as chemicals, other hazards are also present in the workshop – for example, risk of impact, abrasions, cuts, punctures or high temperatures. For these mechanical hazards, a more robust glove may be required.

Cue the Black Mamba heavy-duty impact glove. The glove offers quality back of hand protection, whilst still allowing for comfort and dexterity. Offering defence against abrasion, impact and hand fatigue, the glove is made from a polyester liner with thermal protective rubber padding on the fingers and back of hand. A synthetic leather palm with an elastic fit Velcro band allows for a tailored fit.



So, whatever the job, it is important to evaluate the potential risks and ensure that the correct type of glove is chosen for that task.

For more information

To request further details about the range of Black Mamba Gloves, available from Fortress Distribution, **circle 049**

