

## Choosing the Best Gloves for Harvesting Medical Cannabis

Single-use gloves are a crucial item in medical cannabis cultivation, safeguarding maturing plants from contamination while also protecting workers from chemicals and resin. However, the selection of appropriate gloves is more complex than it seems. Here's what you need to know about choosing the best gloves for different stages of cannabis cultivation.

### THE RIGHT GLOVE FOR EACH STAGE

The gloves used by workers should adjust according to the cannabis plant's development, from resin handling to defoliation.

**Processing** - For processing, which involves the possibility of plants and stems snagging gloves, we recommend 5mil textured nitrile gloves. These gloves provide durability and a slightly textured grip. If additional arm protection is needed, opt for 8mil nitrile glove with an extended cuff.

**Drying** - Handling dried plants can snag and rip gloves, which is why the durability of a 5mil nitrile glove, along with a textured grip, is ideal for this task.

**Trimming** - At this stage, gloves need to be durable to withstand resin accumulation. However, tactility is also crucial for detailed trimming work. For this, a 4mil nitrile glove is a great choice.

### 6 TIPS FOR SELECTING HARVESTING GLOVES

- 1. Thickness & Glove Strength** - A common misconception is that thicker gloves are stronger. In reality, the raw materials used in production largely determine the gloves' strength. Cheap gloves can contain fillers like chalk to reduce costs, but these don't stretch, compromising the glove's elasticity and strength.
- 2. Glove Grade** - Sterile gloves are the cleanest, used in surgical settings. Medical-grade gloves undergo FDA specified tests for safety. For handling food, gloves must comply with FDA regulations (FDA Title 21 CFR Part 177). We recommend either medical or food-grade gloves for harvesting medical cannabis, from a manufacturer with verified quality protocols.
- 3. Cleanliness (aka. Contamination Risk)** - Your product's purity could be jeopardized by one box of contaminated gloves. Ensure the gloves handling your product are free from molds, fungus, pathogens, or toxic chemicals that could contaminate your cannabis.
- 4. Skin Issues** - Extended periods of glove use can cause skin allergies and irritation, especially with cheaper gloves made of low-quality materials. It's crucial to choose gloves that minimize skin issues.

5. Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) - AQL indicates the quality of gloves by identifying pinhole defects. A lower AQL number signifies higher quality. For instance, medical-grade gloves require an AQL score of 2.5 or lower. We recommend gloves with an AQL 2.5 or lower.

6. Chemical Protection - The chemical resistance of a glove depends on the materials used in its manufacturing. If working with chemicals, ensure your gloves offer adequate protection against those specific chemicals. If in doubt, consult the supplier.

The right gloves can significantly enhance the safety and efficiency of your medical cannabis cultivation process, so choose wisely.