Minimum Personal Protective Equipment Required for Paint Stripping

Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (or SDS) for information on composition of the chemical stripper and protective equipment needed.

In enclosed areas, use of volatile solvents such as methylene chloride produces very high exposures, which may result in death. The California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, recommends minimizing exposures to chemicals that cause cancer and reproductive effects. See: [www.cdph.ca.gov/StripPaintSafely](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/StripPaintSafely) for a description of paint stripping products and their potential health hazards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paint Stripper Type</th>
<th>Gloves*</th>
<th>Eye Protection</th>
<th>Respirator*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less durable/less expensive</td>
<td>More durable/more expensive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzyl Alcohol</td>
<td>Laminate of EVOH/PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North)</td>
<td>or Nitrile</td>
<td>Indirectly vented or unvented chemical goggles and face shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caustics</td>
<td>Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North)</td>
<td>or Neoprene, or Nitrile</td>
<td>Indirectly vented or unvented chemical goggles and face shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone (NMP)</td>
<td>Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North)</td>
<td>or Butyl Rubber</td>
<td>Indirectly vented chemical goggles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methylene Chloride-based</td>
<td>Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North)</td>
<td>or Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA)</td>
<td>Indirectly vented chemical goggles unless full-face respirator worn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See notes on reverse side.

[http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb/Pages/methylenechloride.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb/Pages/methylenechloride.aspx)

Occupational Health Branch, California Department of Public Health

May 2013
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* **Glove Note**: EVOH/PE (ethylene vinyl alcohol / polyethylene) laminate gloves can be used as glove liners inside another glove, if a more durable glove is needed.

  Check with glove manufacturers regarding the chemical resistance of their gloves.

**Internet Resources**: Glove manufacturers have information on chemical resistance for their gloves.
- Ansell: [www.ansellpro.com/](http://www.ansellpro.com/)
- ShowaBest Glove: [www.chemrest.com/](http://www.chemrest.com/)
- North Safety: [www.northsafety.com](http://www.northsafety.com)

* **Respirator Note**: The respirator recommendations above assume typical use of paint strippers by contractors and consumers (short duration, intermittent use). When methylene chloride levels in workplace air are above the Cal/OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) or short-term exposure limit (STEL), a supplied-air respirator must be worn. For the other paint strippers, when air levels are higher than typical, more protective respirators may be required for protection. Respirator wearers and their employers must choose the type of respirator based on the levels (concentrations) of chemicals in the air and the form of the chemicals (vapor, gas, or particle). In the workplace, air levels must be measured to determine the correct type of respirator to wear. Respirators must be selected in accordance with Cal/OSHA regulations, the respirator manufacturers' guidelines on use and limitations for their respirators, and good industrial hygiene practices. In the workplace, respirator wearers must also have a medical clearance to wear a respirator and must receive training and fit testing, as appropriate, for their respirator. See California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 8, Section 5144, Respiratory Protection ([www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html)) and 8CCR 5202 Methylene chloride ([www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5202.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5202.html)).

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**Occupational Health Branch, California Department of Public Health**

[http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb/Pages/methylenechloride.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb/Pages/methylenechloride.aspx)