

HydraSoft® Technology



A new technology
to stop skin erosion

Ansell

HydraSoft®

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rehydrates your skin as you use it

Innovative new **HydraSoft®** technology from Ansell is designed to retain moisture and rehydrate your skin, despite continual glove-wearing and frequent contact with astringent hand cleansers and disinfectants.

HydraSoft® helps to keep your skin moist, supple and fulfilling its natural barrier function. **HydraSoft®** technology is incorporated into the new **Gammex® PF HydraSoft®** surgical glove from Ansell. **Gammex® PF HydraSoft®**: the glove that rehydrates your skin as you wear it.

The problem drying skin on hands

One of the functions of the epidermis is to maintain the skin's natural moisture: it contains lipids which act as a barrier, preventing water content from evaporating from the deeper skin layers. However, this normal barrier function can be disrupted, resulting in dry skin.

For the hands of healthcare staff, especially in the operating theatres, this disruption can occur for two reasons:

- Constant glove-wearing keeps the hands in a perspiration bath that softens the skin and weakens the epidermis.
- Frequent hand-washing and the use of alcohol-based disinfectants can directly attack the skin's lipid layer.

The resulting dry, cracked skin opens a migration path for irritants, allergens and micro-organisms.

How HydraSoft® helps

HydraSoft® technology from Ansell actively retains moisture and rehydrates the skin during use. It is odourless and contains a skin-friendly humectant moisturiser that penetrates into the stratum corneum, where it attracts and retains water. Another ingredient is Dimethicone, which forms a protective barrier and prevents the skin from drying out. The result is a soft, smooth and moisturised skin. **HydraSoft®** technology is gentle to sensitive skin, yet provides robust protection from drying or cracking.

Key components of HydraSoft®

HydraSoft® technology contains following key ingredients:

- **Glycerine** - acts as a skin-friendly humectant moisturiser, penetrating into the skin corneum and increasing the water-retention capacity of the skin.
- **Dimethicone** - forms a protective barrier and prevents the skin from drying out (occlusive moisturiser). The result is a silky, soft and moisturised feel to your hands.

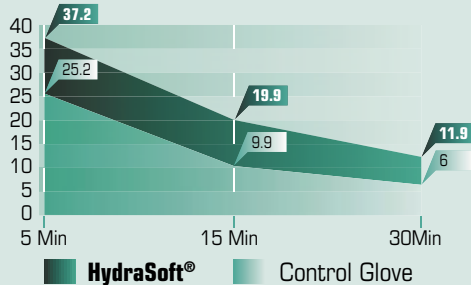
Breakdown of the skin's natural barrier function can result in dry skin and irritant contact dermatitis, a frequently observed condition among healthcare workers. HydraSoft® helps to prevent this.

technology

Extended testing with users

HydraSoft® technology has undergone extended testing at Ansell's Science & Technology Innovation Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Users were asked to wear for one hour a **Gammex® PF HydraSoft®** glove on one hand and a control glove (Gammex® PF) on the other.

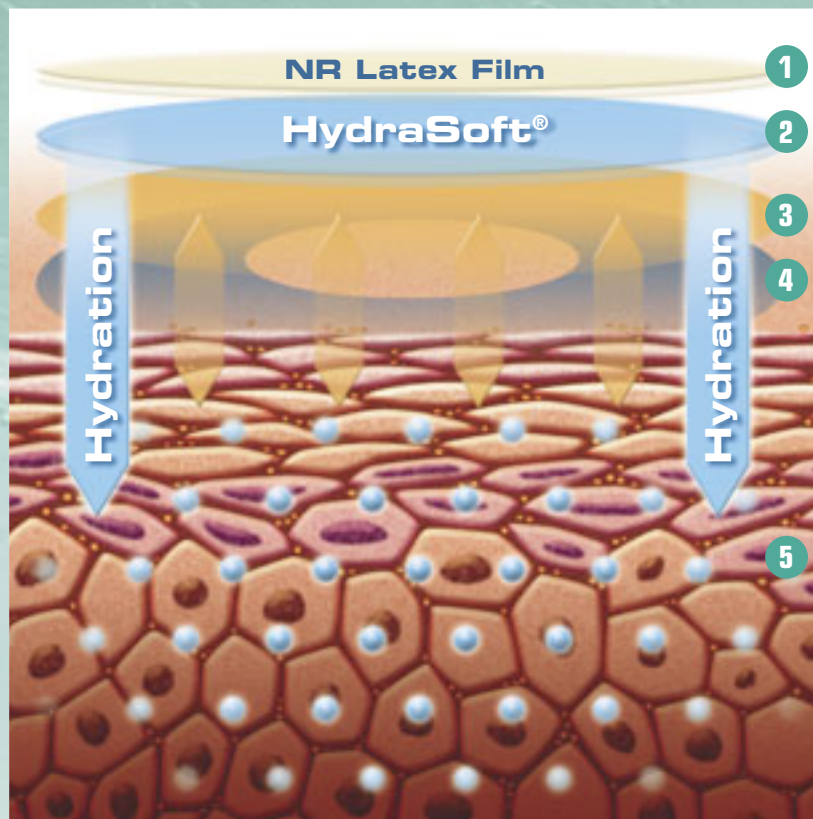
Increase of Moisturisation (%)



Within the first 30 minutes after glove removal, the moisture increase was measured on all the hands three times (after 5, 15 and 30 minutes) using a sophisticated corneometer.

Test results showed that hands wearing the HydraSoft®-coated glove had a higher skin moisture increase than those with the control glove. This improvement was 47% higher after five minutes and 98% higher after 30 minutes.

80% of the subjects tested showed a higher increase in skin moisturisation after wearing Gammex® PF HydraSoft® (compared to the control glove).



- 1 NR Latex Film (0.22mm) - Sweat can not evaporate
- 2 HydraSoft® Inner-coating with moisturizer
- 3 Sweat combined with water soluble foreign material
- 4 Dimethicone forms a protective layer and prevents the skin from drying out
- 5 Glycerine penetrates into the skin corneum

Further customer testing was performed in hospitals in Finland and Germany with over 70 surgeons, nurses and physicians, who highly rated the moisturising effect of **Gammex® PF HydraSoft®** gloves. The tests showed that the technology also offers improved donning and double-gloving properties due to the softness of the coating, as well as improved comfort.

Clinical references

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Ansell Limited is a global leader in barrier protective products. With operations in the Americas, Europe and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people worldwide and holds leading positions in the natural latex and synthetic polymer glove and condom markets. Ansell operates in three main business segments: Occupational Healthcare, supplying hand protection to the industrial market; Professional Healthcare, supplying surgical and examination gloves to healthcare professionals; and Consumer Healthcare, supplying condoms and consumer hand protection. Information on Ansell and its products can be found at <http://www.anselleurope.com>

Ansell Healthcare Europe N.V.
Riverside Business Park, Spey House Boulevard International 55 B-1070 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 (0) 2 528 74 00 Fax +32 (0) 2 528 74 01 Fax Customer Service +32 (0) 2 528 74 03
<http://www.anselleurope.com> E-mail info@eu.ansell.com

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