OUR FIRST BIODEGRADABLE NITRILE GLOVES

Unigloves holds sustainability at the heart of our business. We care about the community along with the environment and hold that at the forefront of thought for any new product innovation. Unigloves latest green initiatives have been bought to light with the launch of our biodegradable disposable gloves, BioTouch - available in two colours, Violet blue and Black.

BIOTOUCH®
an Advanced series glove

WITH BIODEGRADABLE TECHNOLOGY

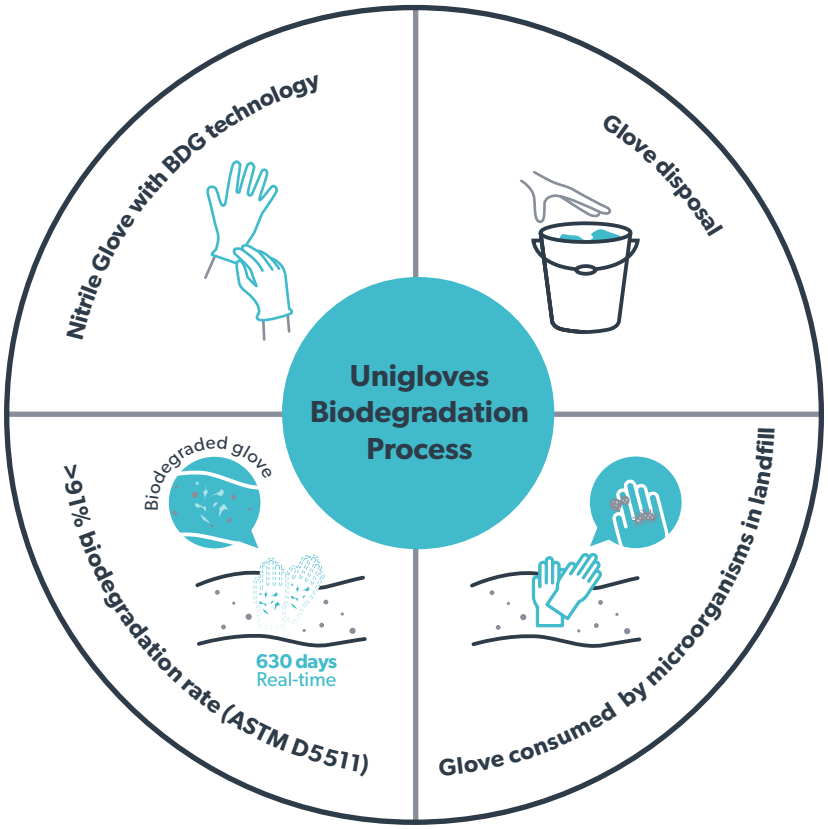
UNIGLOVES®
KEEPING YOU SAFE

What is Biodegradable Technology?

BioTouch gloves contain a Biodegradable Technology that kickstarts a biodegradation process only when discarded in an active landfill environment. **BioTouch is more environmentally friendly with a much faster natural breakdown** compared to regular nitrile which can take over 100 years.

How does Biodegradable Technology work?

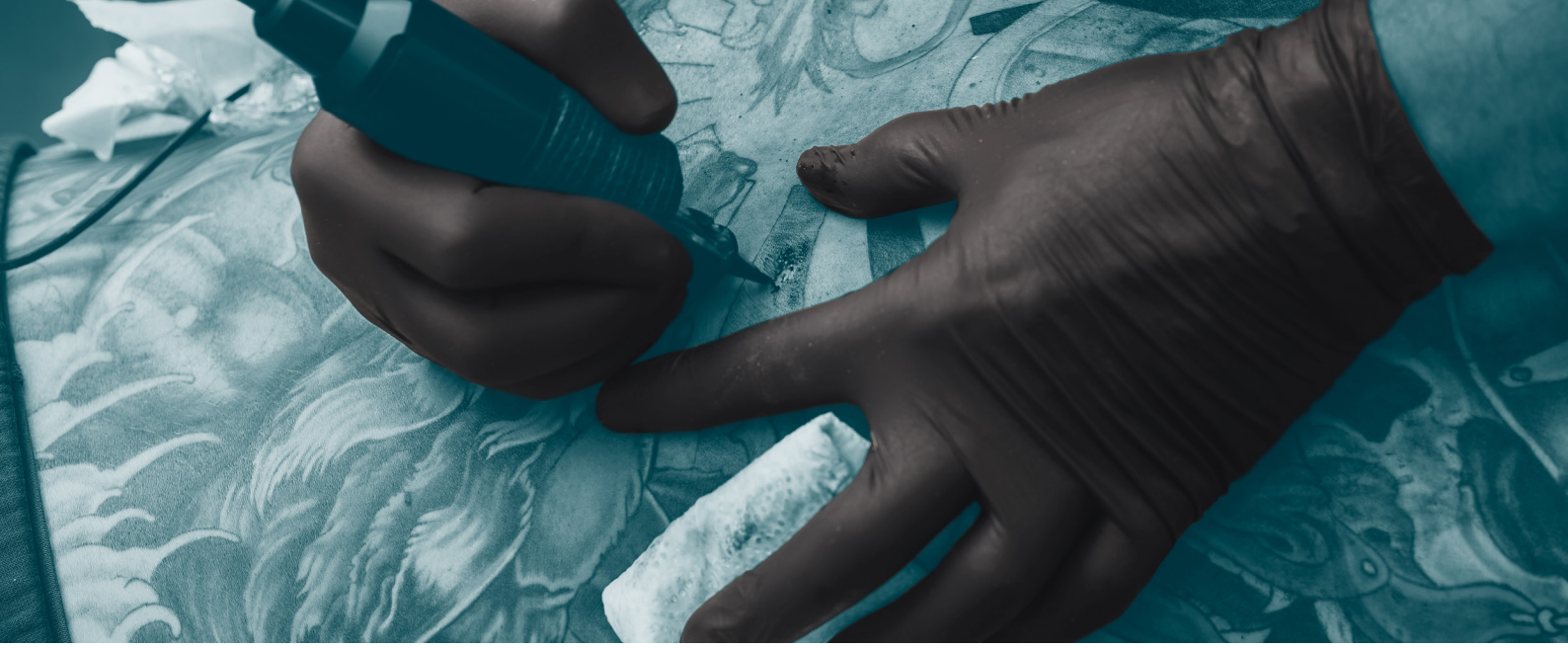
This technology works through the introduction of a polymerised 'food source' during the manufacturing process, bacteria attracted to this secrete an enzyme that breaks down and depolymerises polymer chains, allowing microorganisms to break down any remaining polymers within the glove naturally. The introduction of this technology is incorporated into existing manufacturing techniques, therefore not impacting the quality of the glove.



>91%

biodegradation within

630 DAYS



Will the glove begin to biodegrade in the packaging?

No. BioTouch will not biodegrade before disposal. This distinctive technology allows the biodegradation process to begin only when surrounded by microorganisms present in an active landfill environment. **Studies have shown that these gloves fully maintain their quality and integrity for at least 3 years**.

How long does it take for BioTouch to biodegrade?

The ASTM long term testing is in place to verify the extent of biodegradation. This test imitates landfill environments by limiting oxygen, light, heat, and moisture and imitates high pressure. The results of this test showed that the compounds in **BioTouch result in >91% biodegradation within 630 days compared to regular nitrile, which can take over 100 years**.

Could a customer put BioTouch in a compost bin - is it suitable? Are compostable and degradable similar processes?

You could put BioTouch in a compost bin, but not much would happen!

The term biodegradable refers to a substance that will be broken down into natural components with the help of fungi, bacteria or other natural methods,

A notable difference between a biodegradable product and one compostable is that compostable products leave behind an organic material called humus. In contrast, biodegradable products break down into natural elements.

However, for a product to be labelled as such, it must be able to be converted into organic material. Synthetic products can take hundreds of years to break down, whereas **>91% of BioTouch biodegrades within 630 days**.

Why biodegradable gloves?

Support green endeavours and enhance your company's ecological efforts with a biodegradable disposable glove. Due to the manufacturing processes, you can be confident that you will receive the same excellence and reliability that you're familiar with from Unigloves disposable gloves whilst maintaining a greener footprint. BioTouch also have the same shelf life as traditional nitrile gloves, therefore you won't need to compromise your product to receive these benefits.

What does BioTouch degrade into - compost or something else?

BioTouch is designed as a polymerised "food source" after its working life. This means it has been specially formulated to attract microbes found in landfills.

This biodegradation method is strictly enzymatic. When bacteria consume the food source, they excrete an enzyme that dissolves and de-polymerises the polymer chain, allowing the microbes to break down the remaining polymer naturally.

It is also measured using the standard ASTM 5511 test, which is intended to resemble conditions in biologically active landfills. The test method demonstrates >91% biodegradation within 630 days, measuring the amount of carbon produced during the test.

If >91% of the glove biodegrades, what about the rest?

The test is still running, however we know that BioTouch will never fully biodegrade. The reason is that there are some inorganic components in the glove that cannot biodegrade and are incapable of biodegrading - such as sulphur and zinc oxide, which are essential components of the curing process in glove manufacture. Titanium dioxide is also present; it is part of the pigment and is used as an opacity regulator to achieve the required glove colour.

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FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Tested to **EN374**, **EN1186**, **ASTM D5511** and **ASTM D5526**
- **AQL 1.5** and **EN455** parts 1-4
- Nitrile formulation conforms to the hand during use ensuring a dexterous and comfortable fit
- Touchscreen compatible and manufactured with textured fingertips

To save paper and protect our environment, please do not print this PDF. It is available, along with further information on sustainability, on the Unigloves website **unigloves.co.uk**

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GILLINGHAM LEEDS

We are Unigloves, a market-leading manufacturer and supplier of premium quality, specialist, single use and reusable gloves.

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