The Ultimate Guide to Inspecting Rubber Goods

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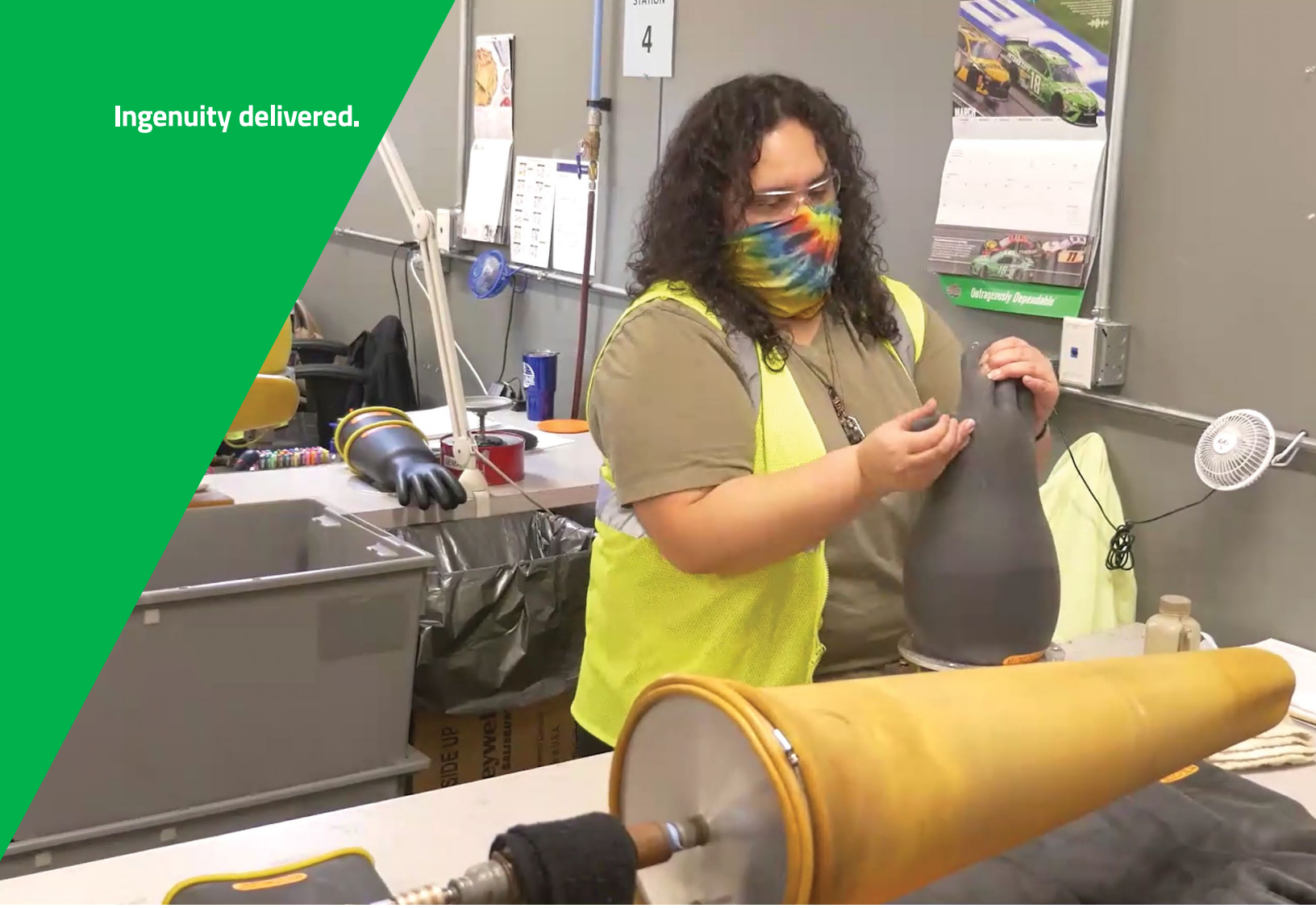


A Visual Inspection of Rubber Products are the First Line of Defense in Preventing an Accident in the Field.

Holes, tears, punctures, cuts, swelling and cracking can impact the insulating properties of your rubber goods.

Look for these **24 irregularities** outlined in ASTM F1236-96 during your daily equipment visual inspections.

Per ASTM, if you identify any of these irregularities in the field, goods should be removed from service and sent to your accredited testing facility for further inspection and certification.

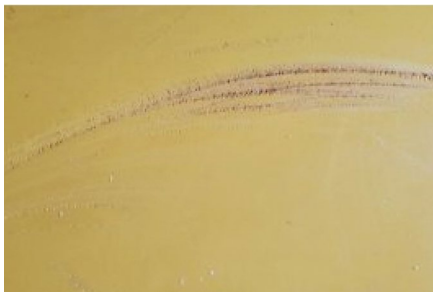
Wesco's Rubber Goods Testing and Exchange Program

We provide managed safety services for dielectric rubber gloves, sleeves, blankets, line hose, hoods and boots performed in accordance with ASTM/OSHA standards, with additional accreditation by NAIL for PET.

Our custom exchange service ensures that your rubber goods are routinely cleaned, tested, custom date-stamped and ready to ship from our climate-controlled dielectric lab testing facility when you need them.

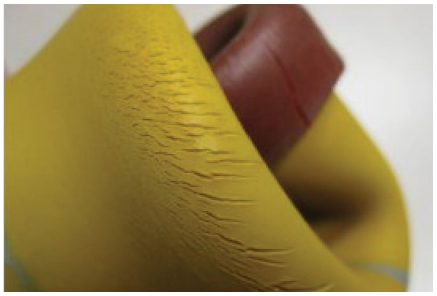
Our rubber goods services maximize the usage of your rubber products, saves you time, as well as minimizing the inventory in your warehouse.

Contact our Rubber Goods Services team today, testinginfo@wesco.com.



Abrasions and Scratches
Damage can occur when a product makes contact with an abrasive surface. Scuff-like damage can look like leather grain.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.1



Age Cracks
Cracks become worse over time. Sunlight exposure causes oxidation and starts in areas of the rubber that are under stress.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.2

Breakdown
Electrical discharge and equipment testing can break down the material.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.3

Chemical Bloom
Chemical additives used in the manufacturing process may cause a white or yellowish discoloration.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.4

Color Splash
During manufacturing, a particle of unvulcanized rubber may become embedded in the product.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.5

Cuts
Smooth cuts caused by sharp-edged objects can grow larger when put under stress.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.6

Depressions or Indentations
Rubber may develop a shallow recess area that is thinner than the rest of the glove.

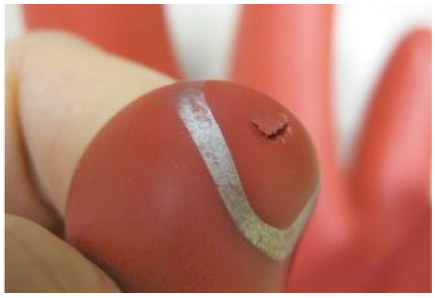
ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.7

Detergent Cracks
Cracks can appear that outline spots of detergent residue that was not removed during the manufacturing process.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.8

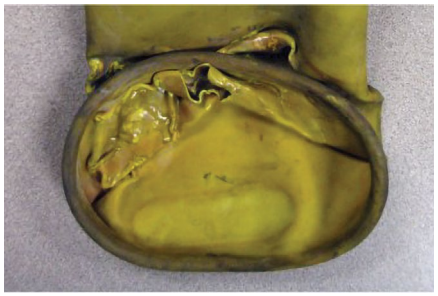
Embedded Foreign Matter
Non-rubber particles can be molded into rubber and may appear as a bump when the rubber is stretched.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.9



Form Marks
An irregularity in the material can appear as a raised or indented section on the surface.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.10



Hard Spot
Exposure to high heat or chemicals may create a hardened area on the rubber surface.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.11

Mold Marks
Raised or indented sections of the rubber can be caused by an irregularity in the product mold.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.12

Nicks, Snags or Scratches
Tears, notches and chips in the surface of the rubber may have been caused by barbed wire, sharp tools, splinters or other sharp-edged hazards.

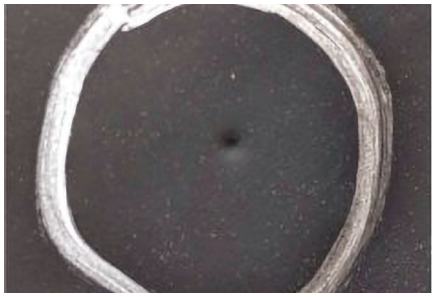
ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.13

Ozone Cracks
Interlacing cracks may start at stress points and worsen as a result of rapid oxidation usually produced by electrical arcing.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.14

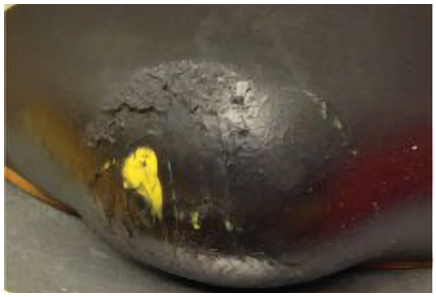
Parting Line or Flash Line
A ridge of rubber left on a rubber good may occur at mold joints during the manufacturing process.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.15



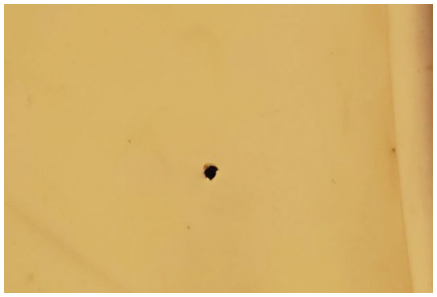
Pitting
A pit-like depression on the rubber surface may be created by a rupturing air bubble during the manufacturing process.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.16



Protuberance
A bulge or swelling protruding above the surface of the rubber may occur during the manufacturing process.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.17

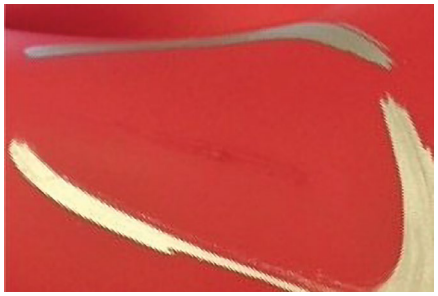


Puncture
A sharp object may cut through the entire thickness of the rubber product.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.18

Repair Marks
An area on the surface of the rubber good may have a different texture due to repair or reworking of an irregularity in the mold.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.19

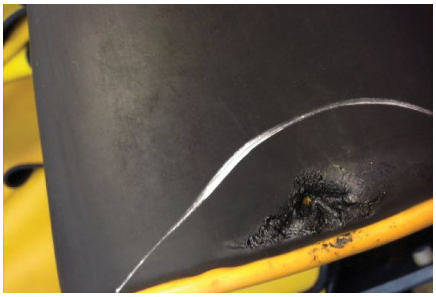


Runs
Raised flow marks on the fingers of rubber gloves can be caused during the dipping process.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.20

Skin Breaks
Embedded dirt may cause cavities with filmy ragged edges and smooth interior surfaces.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.21

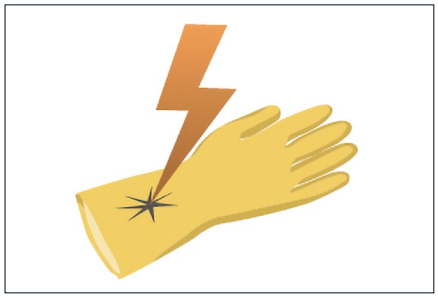


Soft Spots
Spots on the rubber may become soft or tacky after exposure to heat, oils or chemical solvents.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.22

Tears
Rubber may be torn, usually at an edge, through its entire thickness.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.23



Tracking
A carbonized path may be formed after excessive current leakage over the surface.

ASTM F1236-96, 3.1.24

Protect Rubber Goods to Prevent Failure

How you handle and store rubber goods makes a huge impact on how effective they are and how long they last. Take proper care of your rubber goods to stay protected on a line.

- Avoid contact with sharp objects, extreme heat, chemicals and oils.
- Avoid folding rubber goods.
- Never store gloves or sleeves inside out. Use leather glove protectors while in use.
- Store goods in storage bags and containers when not in use.
- Store rubber products in cool, dark, dry locations.
- Avoid storing rubber goods near chemicals, oils, electrical discharge and sunlight.
- Test all new rubber products with a third-party electrical testing facility to identify manufacturer defects.

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