Type I natural (not resistant to ozone) and Type II SALCOR® synthetic rubber (resistant to ozone) both provide electrical workers with the highest level of electrical insulating protection. However, in order to maintain this level of protection and ensure long life, it is essential that rubber goods are properly cared for and stored.

Before each use, rubber goods should be visually inspected for holes, rips or tears, ozone cutting, UV checking and signs of chemical deterioration. Refer to ASTM F1236, standard guide for visual inspection of electrical protective rubber products for additional information.

**Glove & Sleeve Care**

**Before Each Use**
Inspect gloves and sleeves for holes, rips or tears, ozone cutting and signs of chemical deterioration.

**Proper Glove Inflation**
Inflating gloves makes cuts, tears or ozone damage easier to detect. Expand no more than 1.5 times their normal size for Type I, and 1.25 times normal for Type II SALCOR®. Listen for escaping air to detect holes. If a portable inflator is unavailable, roll the cuff tightly to trap air inside, then apply pressure to areas of the glove to inspect for escaping air. Repeat procedure with glove turned inside out.

**Maximum Inflation Size**
Type I Gloves: 1.5 times normal
Type II Gloves: 1.25 times normal

**Sleeve Inspection**
Inspect sleeves along the edge as they are rolled. Rolling back and forth along the edge makes cuts, tears and ozone cutting more visible. Repeat with sleeve turned inside out.

**Line Hose Care**

**Before Each Use**
Rubber insulating line hoses, hoods and covers should be thoroughly inspected inside and out for cuts, scratches, corona cutting, holes, tears and punctures, aging, rope or wire burns and texture changes such as swelling, softening, hardening, becoming sticky or inelastic.

**Line Hose Care & Storage**
If mechanical damage extends one- third the wall thickness of the hose or hoods or if there are signs of chemical deterioration, they should be removed from service. Line hoses, hoods and covers should be wiped clean of any petroleum base product as soon as possible after contact. They should be stored in a relaxed position, without distortion and mechanical stress. Tape shall not be used to secure these items when shipped or stored.

**Blanket Care**

**Before Each Use**
Roll blankets in order to locate scratches, tears, abrasions, snags, corona cutting or age-cracking. The blankets should be rolled two times on each side with the second roll at a right angle to the first. Blankets that show any signs of the damage described above should be removed from service. The ASTM In-Service Specifications call for an electrical resist at least every 12 months. A visual inspection in the field should be performed before each use.

**Blanket Care & Storage**
Blankets should always be stored flat or rolled in blanket roll-ups or caserers. They should never be folded, creased or compressed in any manner. When more than one blanket is stored, the most convenient method of storing reversed gloves and sleeves is to store the second roll at a right angle to the first. Blankets that show any signs of the damage described above should be removed from service. Line hoses, hoods and covers should be wiped clean of any petroleum base product as soon as possible after contact. They should be stored in a relaxed position, without distortion and mechanical stress. Tape shall not be used to secure these items when shipped or stored.

**Proper Storage**
Proper storage extends the service life of linemen's gloves and sleeves. Folds and creases strain rubber and cause it to crack from ozone prematurely. By storing rubber gloves and sleeves in the right size bag, and never forcing more than one pair into each bag, equipment will lie flat and last longer.

**Common Problems to Look For**
- **Cracking & Cutting**
  - Shown below is damage caused by prolonged folding or compressing.
- **Avoid Folding**
  - The stress on rubber at a folded point is equal to stretching the rubber to twice its length.
- **Chemical Attack**
  - This photo shows swelling caused by oils and petroleum compounds.
- **Embedded Wires**
  - This photo shows swelling caused by embedded wires or metal shavings that could puncture rubber gloves.
- **UV Checking**
  - Storing in areas subject to prolonged sunlight causes UV checking.
- **Snags**
  - Damage shown here is due to wood and metal splinters and other sharp objects.
- **Contamination**
  - Discard protectors contaminated with oil or petroleum compounds.
- **Avoid Inside Out**
  - Storing reversed gloves and sleeves causes UV checking and strains the rubber severely and promotes ozone cutting.
- **Physical Damage**
  - Puncture hazards are cause for rejection.

**ASTM Reference**

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Proof Test Voltage AC/DC</th>
<th>Maximum Use Voltage*</th>
<th>Insulating Rubber Gloves Label</th>
<th>Insulating Rubber Dipped Sleeve Label</th>
<th>Insulating Rubber Molded Sleeve Label</th>
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*Maximum Use Voltage when worn with leather protectors.

**Protective Rubber Equipment Labeling Chart**