



# Q2 Disposable Glove Market Update

April 2026



The Right Glove for The Job®

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Entering Q2 2026, the disposable glove market remains demand-stable but cost-volatile. Usage is resilient; however, pricing and availability are increasingly influenced by geopolitical conflict in the Middle East, logistics disruption, and raw material volatility, particularly for nitrile and vinyl gloves.

Both nitrile and vinyl gloves rely on oil-derived synthetic materials. As a result of current geopolitical conflicts, global oil supply disruptions are creating raw material shortages and driving higher costs. Specifically, constrained oil availability is increasing prices for Nitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC). Oil refineries in Asia, where most glove raw materials are processed, are experiencing the most severe disruptions.

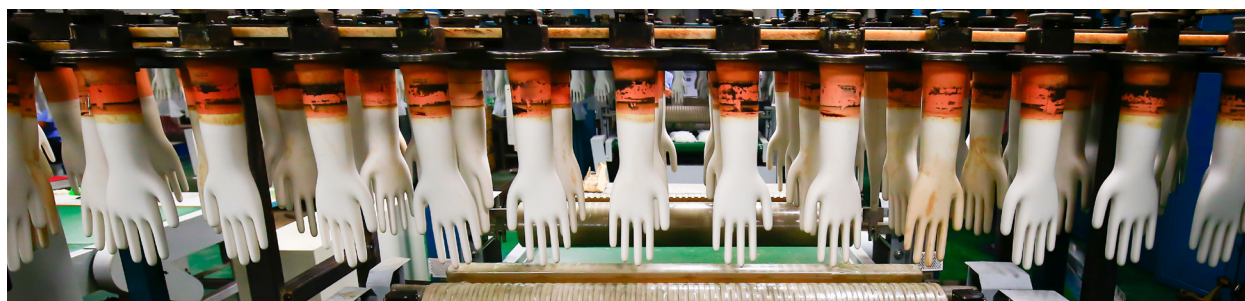
In the near term, the market is likely to experience upward pricing pressure, driven by the costs of raw materials, energy, and logistics disruptions.

## RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY & PRODUCTION LANDSCAPE

The global supply of disposable gloves continues to be affected by the Middle East conflict and shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which intensified in March 2026. These disruptions directly impact oil prices, the primary input for nitrile and vinyl glove production.

Global disposable glove production exceeds 400 billion gloves annually, with Southeast Asia accounting for approximately 70% of total capacity. Production output and costs are expected to be negatively affected in the near to medium term due to raw material shortages.

Across all major glove-producing regions, nitrile and vinyl gloves are facing significant cost increases as NBR and PVC supplies tighten. While these conditions are not expected to persist indefinitely, we anticipate noticeable shortages and elevated pricing in North America beginning in Q2, continuing until raw material supply and global logistics stabilize. Importantly, these challenges affect all glove manufacturers and buyers, no market participant is insulated.



## LOGISTICS: AN ADDED DRIVER OF 2026 LANDED COSTS

Beyond raw material pressures, global logistics and transportation networks remain strained. Elevated fuel costs, rerouting risk, and capacity constraints are increasing delivery expenses and prolonging transit times. These conditions may persist through the remainder of 2026, further contributing to higher landed costs across the disposable glove market.



## PRICING OUTLOOK: UPWARD PRESSURE AND VOLATILITY

We expect rising prices for all disposable gloves throughout 2026 as higher raw material costs and logistics expenses feed through to landed pricing.

Operational impact: Even if geopolitical tensions ease in the coming weeks, landed costs may still rise due to the cumulative effect of raw materials, duties, international freight, and domestic delivery. This dynamic may result in “sticker shock” during replenishment cycles throughout the remainder of 2026.

## SEGMENT & MATERIAL TRENDS

Nitrile gloves hold approximately 45–50% of the global market share and up to 70% in the U.S. Pricing is expected to rise in Q2 as NBR supply constraints impact production economics.

Vinyl glove pricing faces upward pressure from higher PVC costs and production expenses. Elevated oil prices are increasing PVC costs and are likely to drive vinyl price increases beginning in Q2.

Latex glove pricing is expected to rise as latex can be viewed as a substitute in certain applications amid nitrile and vinyl cost increases. Despite niche use cases, latex continues to lose share to nitrile due to allergy prevalence and sensitivity to tapping seasons and weather patterns.



## DEMAND CONDITIONS: RESILIENT AND NEED-BASED

Disposable glove demand is largely recession-resistant, driven by healthcare and industrial usage where gloves have become embedded in standard operating procedures. Once adopted, glove use is rarely reversed.

Market volatility in 2026 is expected to be cost- and supply-driven rather than demand-driven. Gloves remain a strategic consumable, and supply assurance is increasingly critical for buyers.

## RISK SUMMARY: KEY FACTORS TO MONITOR

**Raw Materials:** Oil-derived inputs such as NBR and PVC remain vulnerable to Middle East supply disruptions, directly affecting nitrile and vinyl glove costs.

**Logistics:** Rising oil prices, shipping route risks, and persistent U.S. domestic delivery inflation may continue to elevate total landed costs and extend lead times.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR BUYERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

Our Asia-based sourcing team is actively working to secure glove supply and manage pricing wherever possible. While efforts are underway to mitigate impacts, supply constraints and elevated costs are likely unavoidable in the near term. AMMEX remains focused on minimizing price volatility for our partners.

We encourage customers to stay in close contact with our service team. For more than 38 years, AMMEX has supported clients through periods of uncertainty by providing reliable disposable glove supply, rigorous inspection and quality standards, proactive compliance, and deep service expertise. We remain committed to doing so in this evolving market environment.

