



# Q1 Disposable Glove Market Update

January 2026



The Right Glove for The Job™

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we head into 2026, the U.S. disposable glove market is navigating a complex landscape shaped by the impact of tariff policies, volatile domestic logistics costs, resilient demand, and a shifting economic backdrop.

In Q1 2026, despite rising prices and other economic headwinds, the market will likely remain fundamentally strong, driven by consistent demand and growth across glove use cases and applications. In this dynamic market environment, AMMEX continues to support clients with industry-leading 98%+ fill rates, outstanding quality, 100% compliance, and dedicated service.

## OVERALL MARKET CONDITIONS

The market enters 2026 under significant cost pressure due to tariff escalations. The impact of tariffs took some time to develop and propagate through the supply chain, but is expected to come into play for most glove buyers in early 2026. Global production continues to grow, with over 400 billion gloves produced globally. The industry continues to be dominated by Malaysia and Thailand (~70% of supply), but with demand shifting away from China, we expect an increasing portion of glove supply to come from Southeast Asia.

## IMPACT OF TARIFFS

In addition to the 20% reciprocal rate, the tariffs on the examination nitrile gloves from China will double to 100% on January 1, 2026, following the 50% rate in 2025. This will bring the total tariffs on exam gloves from China to 120%. Other large glove-producing countries face tariffs starting at 19% and higher. This will likely accelerate supplier migration to Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand), but capacity expansion takes time, creating potential for price volatility.



## DISPOSABLE GLOVE PRICING OUTLOOK

Expect continued upward pricing pressure in H1 2026 as tariffs continue to add to the landed cost of disposable gloves. NBR (nitrile butadiene rubber) supply, which is the main raw material in nitrile disposable glove production, also frequently runs into constraints because of uneven production across the globe. This dynamic will probably continue to contribute to volatility in glove production costs. On top of that, logistics costs remain fluid due to port congestion and fuel volatility. Ocean shipping rates continue to go up and down, with shipping lines cutting capacity if the prices drop in the spot market. Last-mile delivery, especially in the US, continues to be expensive due to rising labor and transportation costs. Overall, buyers should anticipate potential price increases compared to 2025.

## MATERIAL-SPECIFIC TRENDS

**Nitrile Gloves:** Still the dominant segment with 45–50% share globally and up to 70% in the US. Prices are likely to rise due to tariff hikes and raw material constraints. Powder-free nitrile gloves remain preferred for healthcare and industrial use.

**Latex Gloves:** Demand steady in a variety of settings with a continuing shift to nitrile. Many states ban its use in food service, with up to 5% of the general population affected by latex allergies. Plus, seasonal rubber tapping issues and flooding in Thailand are always a factor.

**Vinyl Gloves:** Market costs are unlikely to decline further due to tariffs and the cost of production. Vinyl continues to be used in food service for cost-sensitive buyers.

## MARKET DEMAND OUTLOOK

Demand for disposable gloves remains recession-resistant, led by healthcare and industrial sectors. Demand for gloves continues to be need-based – workers are not willing to do their jobs without gloves once they are used to them. Buyers should continue to think long-term to mitigate tariff and supply risks.

## HOW AMMEX CONTINUES TO DELIVER REGARDLESS OF MARKET CONDITIONS

Market conditions change constantly, but regardless of circumstances, all buyers benefit from prioritizing glove suppliers who have redundant operations and can deliver regardless of operational changes.



After 37-plus years in the disposable glove business, AMMEX offers a unique set of differentiating capabilities as a supplier of disposable gloves.

**98%-plus fill rates:** We make sure you never run out of gloves.

**Focus on quality:** We personally inspect 100% of shipments at our factories.

**Proactive compliance:** We help customers avoid unexpected challenges.

**Outstanding expertise and service:** We support our clients with dedicated people.

We look forward to helping you buy the right disposable gloves.

**AMMEX® The Right Glove for the Job™**

