

Sustainability Initiative: Glove Recycling

As part of the Rozelle Interchange Project's commitment to sustainability and the minimisation of waste, a glove reuse program has been implemented.



Pre-recycling wash



Post-recycling wash

Gloves are compulsory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that workers must wear on-site when undertaking manual handling, handling chemicals and undertaking specific tasks where there is a risk of injury to hands.

The Project previously procured cheap, low quality gloves due to their exposure to various thick and dirty materials including mud, oil, grease, grout, shotcrete and chemicals such as accelerant. Consequently, the low durability gloves were susceptible to wear and tear and were discarded by workers after each use. On average, workers would each turnover two pairs of glove every shift.

Tunnel Site A implemented a more sustainable solution by procuring better quality gloves with increased longevity and recycling them for reuse several times.

This method began by engaging with Industrial Decontamination Services to clean the gloves off site.

Used gloves are collected at the end of each shift then sent offsite to be washed, dried, sorted into sizes and pairs, packaged and returned to site.

The gloves are then distributed to work crews for reuse.

Cleaned used gloves remain durable and perform with little to no difference resulting in workers only using one pair of gloves per shift rather than two. The cleaned gloves can be reused up to three times. Over the course of one week, Tunnel Site A would use 850 pairs of gloves however, since using the higher quality reusable gloves, only 283 pairs are used each week.

The introduction of this initiative has reduced the environmental impacts with each reuse diverting at least two pairs of single use gloves from landfill.

The improved environmental impacts of the glove reuse program has also created a positive social impact including a newly generated culture of reuse that 100% adoption rate across the Tunnel Site A team.

