



**EcoTek**  
BIODEGRADABILITY

Changing the future  
of single-use gloves.

**SafetyMate**

[www.safetymate.com.au](http://www.safetymate.com.au)

## What is ASTM D5526?

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) validates biodegradation and ASTM D5526 is the standard test developed for determining anaerobic biodegradation of plastic materials under accelerated landfill conditions.

Biodegradability is determined by measuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced over a certain time period. Biodegradation rates are measured in three tiers using 35%, 40% and 60% solid content, representing different landfill conditions.

Biodegradation rates will vary in biologically-active landfills according to its solid content, temperature and moisture levels.

## Biodegradable

Biodegradable refers to a product breaking down into natural elements: Carbon dioxide and water vapour by micro-organisms like bacteria and fungi. Technically, just about everything is biodegradable, though it will take hundreds of years for most things to biodegrade.

## Compostable

Items that breaks down over a reasonable period, leaving behind no discernible residue or toxins and result in a nutritive soil. Must be processed in composting facilities.

## Biodegradable vs. Compostable

Ecotek glove biodegrades in landfill (anaerobic conditions) and does not claim compostability. Gloves are usually disposed in landfill and not accepted in composting facilities.

## Claim Validation

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has provided “Green Guides” to provide guidance on environmental claims specific to biodegradability:

- (a) prohibits unqualified degradable claims for items destined for landfills, incinerators, or recycling facilities because decomposition will not occur within one year;
- (b) degradable claims should be qualified clearly stating the ability to degrade in the environment where it is customarily disposed and the rate and extent of degradation.

## Products



POWERFORM BLACK		POWERFORM GREEN	
Biodegradable Nitrile		Biodegradable Nitrile	
THICKNESS	0.13mm	THICKNESS	0.13mm
LENGTH	229mm	LENGTH	242mm
AQL	1.5	AQL	1.5

## MEGAMAN

Absorbent-lined  
Biodegradable Nitrile

THICKNESS	0.22mm
LENGTH	280mm
AQL	1.5



N26088X	SW Megaman Disposable 50/Box
N26488X	SW Megaman Disposable Vending 200/Box
XXXXXXX	SW Megaman Disposable 8 pairs per vend pack
N71688X	SW Stellar S6 P/F Black Nitrile Disposable 100/Box
N20036X	SW Powerform S6 P/F Teal Nitrile Disposable 100/Box

## Tested and Certified

Confirmed by third-party test Institutes: Certified by independent laboratories and institutes for biodegradability, ecotoxicity, safety, quality and performance.

Suitable for direct contact with food: Ecotek gloves comply with the requirements of U.S. FDA 21 CFR 177.2600-Rubber articles intended for repeated use.

CE Certified: Category III according to new Personal Protective Equipment Regulation (EU) 2016/425, tested by a qualified Notified Body.

Material Health Certificate: SW's Ecotek glove has received the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute's Silver Level Material Health Certificate.

UL NFPA 1999-2018: Meet stringent requirements of UL National Fire Protection Agency 1999 standard on PPE for Emergency Medical Operations.

# EcoTek®

## Introducing SW® Ecotek® Biodegradability Technology

Ecotek is a nitrile treatment that accelerates the break-down in landfills without performance loss.

Ecotek gloves biodegrade in landfill, 92.6% in 2 ½ years tested according to ASTM D5526-12.

EcoTek  
92.6%

Ecotek biodegrades  
dramatically faster  
in landfills



vs.

standard  
nitrile

Landfill  
Day 1

Landfill  
Day 945



SW manufactures  
with Ecotek



Used gloves  
disposed in trash



In landfill,  
heat and moisture  
activate Ecotek



Ecotek breaks  
apart nitrile



945 days later,  
waste volume is  
reduced by 92.6%



**SW is a global organization that is socially and economically responsible,** we embrace diversity and innovation while protecting the environment which benefits the communities where we work.

**SW was founded with a single purpose: to make our customers more successful.** We realize that to do this we must develop & manufacturer demonstrably better products that cause no unnecessary harm, to provide innovative solutions that are environmentally compliant, and to promote the wellbeing of the customers we serve.

**SW is committed to environmental sustainability and stewardship.**

By working to create a cleaner environment through efforts of earth-friendly technologies, practices, and responsible development planning, we will strive to work for a better tomorrow

### Awards and Accreditation

**Skin Health Alliance (SHA):** Accredited by SHA, an independent, not-for-profit organization working with international dermatologists, researchers and skin scientists.

**New Product of The Year:** Winner of the Occupational Health & Safety Green Technology New Product of the Year Award.



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