

# Latex Allergy = Allergy, Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Food Allergy

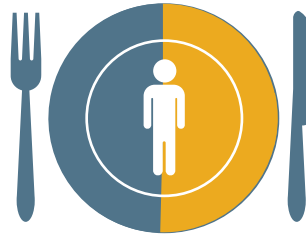


**1 – 6%**

of the general population may have a life-threatening allergy to latex

**50%**

of those allergic to Latex have cross reactive food allergy



## What foods and plants cross react with natural rubber latex?

### Common

Bananas  
Avocado  
Kiwi



### Less Common

Potato  
Tomato  
Bell Peppers  
Chestnut  
Pointsettia  
Figs

There are over

**40,000 products**

that contain natural rubber latex

## Products that commonly cause reactions

- Elastic
- Condoms
- Dental dam
- Latex gloves
- Bandage adhesive
- Red rubber catheter
- Balloons
- Koosh Ball
- Rubber bands
- Therapy bands
- Rubber accelerators
- Vial Stoppers

## Dipped vs Molded Latex

Latex allergic reactions are most often triggered by dipped latex products. Molded latex products are less likely to cause reactions.



**Latex proteins can become airborne** – Inhalation of airborne latex particles can occur when latex proteins combine with the powder from products and form aerosolized particles that become airborne. These particles get into eyes, nose, mouth, or lungs, where protein may be absorbed through these moist mucous membranes.



**Latex proteins can be transferred to other materials** – Case reports suggest that transfer of proteins from powdered gloves to other materials or food can cause allergic reactions.



**Latex can be Natural or Synthetic** – The rubber component of latex is cis 1, 4 polyisoprene. Only natural rubber latex has proteins that can cause allergic reactions unless a manufacturer uses a product (e.g. casein from milk) in the manufacture or curing of the polyisoprene.



## How can I find out if I have a latex allergy?

The diagnosis of latex allergy, contact dermatitis, and/or irritant dermatitis is made by a licensed independent medical provider who uses a medical history, physical exam and various laboratory and clinical tests. **Laboratory testing alone is insufficient to make a diagnosis.**