



Chemcial Hazards



Every workplace contains exposure to some type of hazardous chemicals; this can be managed safely with the use of these strategies:

- Identification of hazards, make sure you have proper training to identify workplace hazards, including chemical and biological. Follow all procedures. They are in place to protect you and your co-workers.
- Make sure you are aware of the location of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Read the labels and SDS for the chemicals you are handling to ensure you understand how to handle the chemical and what to do in case of an emergency.
- Properly handle and store all chemicals according to the SDS. Never transfer chemicals into a different container unless it's necessary. If it is, ensure the new container has the proper label. Maintain up to date inventory of hazardous chemicals used.
- Always use the proper personal protective equipment for the chemicals you are using such as: goggles, gloves, aprons and hazard suits. If you are not sure you are wearing your PPE properly, ask your supervisor to check. And if you see a co-worker without PPE who should be using it, stop what you are doing and make sure they put on the PPE.
- Use chemicals only for their intended purpose. For example, don't ever use solvents to clean your hands or clothing.
- Follow proper housekeeping procedures. After using, put chemicals back into storage in their designated place, and ensure the containers are clean and sealed properly so the next employee to use them isn't exposed to the chemical.
- Do not eat, smoke or drink where chemicals are handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, using the toilet, handling cosmetics or touching your contact lenses, even if you wear PPE when you were handling the chemicals.
- Do not use any chemical if the label is missing or the cap is damaged.

Talk about a workplace scenario where following these procedures didn't happen...don't take the risk!

Don't take any risks, if in doubt ask your supervisor. By taking chemical use and exposure seriously, we can keep ourselves and each other safe.



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members.
Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan.
Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH

