



Working with Chemicals

Even if you don't work in a chemical plant, a lot of jobs you do expose you to chemicals. We may become complacent while using common household products, but all chemicals can pose certain health hazards.

-) Before using any chemical read the label or obtain the Material Safety Data Sheet. These provide important information about the hazards of the substance and how to use them safely.
-) Use products only as directed and use them for the right application.
-) Follow the instructions on the container label.
-) Dilute products, if recommended, to reduce the concentration.
-) Try to use the safest product available that will get the job done.
-) Do not drink, eat, or smoke while using chemicals and always wash your hands after using them.
-) Don't mix chemicals. One of the most common hazards is accidentally mixing household bleach with an ammonia cleaning product
-) Keep chemicals in their original containers
-) Store them in well-ventilated areas away from direct sunlight or other heat source, and away from sources of ignition.
-) Never use empty food containers to store chemicals.
-) Clean up spills according to the instructions on the MSDS.

Know and understand the specific health and safety hazards of the chemicals you work with. Always read the label and follow the recommended safety precautions.



For more information, go to <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardoustoxicsubstances/>.

This fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice

For additional information on this topic please contact ACWA JPIA Risk Control Department, Terry Lofing, Administrative Assistant (tlofing@acwajpia.com) or 800-231-5742