

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Hazardous substances can be used in, or created by, the construction process.

Why: Ignore a hazardous substance today and you may wish you hadn't by tomorrow.

Outline: This talk will cover risk assessment, hazards, control measures and safe use of substances.



Risk Assessment

Management must carry out a risk assessment to find whether:

- Exposure to a substance can be eliminated?
- Alternative work methods can reduce exposure?
- A less hazardous substance can be used?

Any substance with a hazard warning label has the potential to cause harm – assess the risk before using it.

Q: Before using a substance what should you consider?

Any substance with a hazard warning label has the potential to cause harm – assess the risk before using it.

Hazards

How you could be affected by a hazardous substance:

- Ingestion – eating contaminated food.
- Inhalation – breathing harmful dust or fumes.
- Absorption – chemicals entering through cuts etc.

Examples of hazardous substances on construction sites:

- Solvent fumes
- Epoxy based paints
- Concrete ad-mixtures

NOTES

COSHH

- Hardwood dust
- Welding fumes
- Cement
- Resins
- Asbestos

Do not mix chemicals or substances.

Q: Name the three ways a substance can enter your body?

Control Measures

- When using hazardous substances wear the correct PPE.
- Know how to look after and use PPE correctly.
- Know where washing and first aid facilities are on site.
- Ensure hazardous substances are put back into a secure location after use and not left out on site.
- Do not store hazardous substances above head height.

Q: Where should substances be put at the end of a shift?

Use Of Substances

- Make sure you are trained to use hazardous substances.
- Read and comply with the information on the hazard data sheet and the instructions on the product label.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke when handling substances.
- Do not expose workers to fumes, dust, gas or other dangers from hazardous substances due to your work.
- Always wash at the end of each shift and before eating

Q: Where can you obtain information about the hazardous substance you are using?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What can you wear to protect against substances?

Q: Name five hazardous substances you may find on site.

NOTES

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COSHH

**REMEMBER:
KNOW WHAT PPE TO WEAR TO PROTECT
AGAINST THE HAZARD**

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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