

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

What is a Hazardous Substance?

Hazardous substances may be:

Toxic or very toxic, harmful, corrosive, irritant, sensitising, carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction

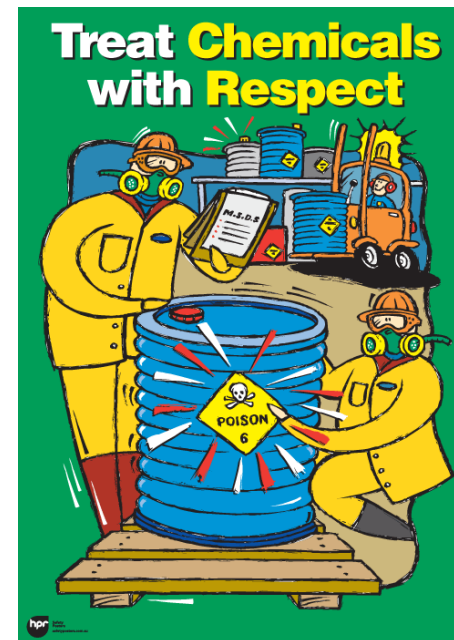


A hazardous substance can take many forms – gas, powder, liquid, solid or dust. Often hazardous substances will be industrial chemicals. However, they may be pesticides, paints, drugs, cosmetics, a food product or any other substance that is hazardous to health and is used or produced in a work activity.



Examples of some potentially hazardous substances include:

- Paints
- Drugs
- Cleaning Products
- Degreasers
- Detergents
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- Gases – e.g. acetylene
- Refrigerant Gases
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Diesel Fuel
- Petrol



How do I use Hazardous Substances safely?

Contact your supervisor for the Safety Data Sheet. This provides guidance on hazards, safe handling, storage, and disposal for the substance. **Remember, always read the label first!**



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES – Q & A

What are hazardous substances?

Hazardous substances are those that following worker exposure can have an adverse effect on health. Often hazardous substances will be industrial chemicals. However, they may be pesticides, paints, drugs, cosmetics, a food product or any other substance that is hazardous to health and is used or produced in a work activity. Many hazardous substances are classified as dangerous goods.

Name some hazardous substances in your work area. (Supervisors discuss ways specific to your work group)

*Paints; Drugs; Cleaning Products; Degreasers; Detergents; Liquefied Petroleum Gas
Gases; Refrigerant; Pesticides; Herbicides; Diesel Fuel; Petrol*

What if I am not sure if a substance is hazardous?

*The easiest way to determine if a substance is hazardous, is to look on the label for the words '**hazardous**', '**caution**', '**poison**', '**dangerous poison**', '**harmful**', or '**corrosive**', or other advice about specific health effects. An unknown substance should be treated as hazardous until it is proven not to be hazardous. If you encounter an unknown and unlabelled chemical or substance you should notify your manager.*

What should I do when I need to use a hazardous substance?

Read the Safety Data Sheet before you use any hazardous substance for the first time, or any time you are unsure about the risks or necessary precautions. The Safety Data Sheet will help you know how to stay safe when working with the hazardous substance

What is a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)?

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS), previously called a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), is a document that provides information on the properties of hazardous substances and how they affect health and safety in the workplace. For example it includes information on the identity, health and physicochemical hazards, safe handling and storage, emergency procedures, and disposal considerations of hazardous chemicals and their constituents. An SDS is an important source of information that should be considered when making any decisions on managing risk from hazardous chemicals in the workplace

Where do I get Safety Data Sheets?

Roper Gulf Regional Council has access to the Chemwatch online database of Safety Data Sheets. Supervisors can get access to the Chemwatch database by contacting the WHS Coordinator for a login.

What if something goes wrong?

Contact your supervisor or the WHS Coordinator and refer to the Safety Data Sheet. This provides guidance on clean up, disposal & First Aid for the substance. Remember, always read the label first!