SAFE OVER SUMMER
Hazardous Chemicals

Hazardous chemicals are part of daily tasks — from cleaning products to maintenance sprays. These can burn skin, irritate eyes, or create toxic vapours if mixed or stored wrong. Safe use depends on knowing the chemical, reading the SDS, and using the right PPE.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- Skin and eye contact causing burns or irritation
- Inhalation of vapours, mists, or aerosols
- Mixing incompatible chemicals (e.g. bleach and ammonia)
- Unlabelled or incorrectly stored containers
- Poor ventilation or spill response procedures
- Ignoring expiry dates or damaged packaging

Discuss / Share:
When was the last time you checked a Safety Data Sheet before using a chemical?
Where are your site's chemical storage and SDS folders located?

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Critical Controls

- Read and understand the Safety Data Sheet before using any chemical
- Ensure correct labelling on all containers — never use unmarked bottles
- Use in well-ventilated areas or with extraction where required
- Wear task-specific PPE — gloves, eye protection, apron, respirator if needed
- Know emergency response — eyewash, spill kit, first aid procedures
- Store incompatible chemicals separately and securely
- Report leaks, damaged containers, or missing labels immediately
- Dispose of chemical waste per site procedure — never pour down drains

Discuss / Share:
What's your first action if a chemical splashes into someone's eyes or onto skin?