Hazardous Chemicals

Cleaning products and maintenance chemicals can cause burns, eye or breathing injuries, poisoning, fire or environmental harm when used, stored or mixed incorrectly.

Read the SDS and label. Use approved chemicals, the required PPE and the correct work instructions.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Skin, eye, inhalation or ingestion exposure**
- **Poor ventilation or incorrect PPE**



- **Mixing incompatible chemicals**
- **Missing or outdated SDS**
- **Spills, leaks or uncontrolled releases**



- **Incorrect storage**
- **Unlabelled or damaged containers**

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Where might this happen in our work environment?



Bathrooms and amenities: using cleaning products and disinfectants can expose skin and eyes to splashes or breathing to fumes.



Maintenance work: paints, fuels and aerosols can create harmful vapours, fire risks or exposure during use.



Chemical stores: damaged containers, leaks or incompatible storage can cause spills, reactions or environmental harm.

Where else?

Where else do you use chemicals or see chemical hazards at work?

What can we **check to protect**?

1. **Do we know how to use it?**
   Use approved products. Read SDS and labels. Mix to work instructions or manufacturer specifications. Wear required PPE.
2. **Are use and storage safe?**
   Ventilate indoor use and storage. Segregate by compatibility. Label and seal containers. Minimise volumes used and stored.
3. **Are we ready for a spill?**
   Report damage, leaks, spills or missing SDS immediately. Follow SDS spill response and emergency procedures.

What would you do if a chemical spill or exposure occurred today?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.