

Hazardous substances (COSHH)

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

Why it matters. Many products used on site can harm your health: adhesives, solvents, cement, resins and fuels. Effects can be immediate or build up over years.

The hazards

- Breathing in fumes, vapours or dust
- Skin contact causing burns or dermatitis
- Splashes to the eyes
- Swallowing through eating with dirty hands

Stay safe

- Read the label and the COSHH assessment before using a product
- Use the least hazardous product that does the job
- Work in a well-ventilated area or use extraction
- Wear the PPE and RPE the assessment requires
- Keep containers closed and labelled, and store them properly
- Never decant into drinks bottles
- Wash before eating, drinking or smoking
- Know the first aid steps on the safety data sheet

Ask the team

1. What hazardous products are you using today?
2. Where can you find the COSHH assessment?
3. What would you do if you got a product in your eyes?

The law and guidance

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. HSE INDG136, Working with substances hazardous to health.

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

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Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.