

Protecting Against Chemical Hazards: Your Checklist for Safe Use of Chemicals

Remember these DOs and DON'Ts for handling dangerous chemicals such as corrosives and solvents:

✓ DO...

- ▲ Read labels and MSDSs to learn special handling procedures.
- ▲ Mix corrosives or solvents slowly.
- ▲ Always add acids to water, not water to acids.
- ▲ Use the right personal protective equipment such as goggles and safety gloves with each chemical.
- ▲ Make sure your personal protective equipment fits right and that you know how to use it.
- ▲ Use the right respirator cartridge for the chemical.
- ▲ Know the location of eyewash stations and safety showers and how to use them.
- ▲ Wash your hands well before eating, smoking or leaving work.
- ▲ Use proper ventilation such as fans and exhaust hoods.
- ▲ Know emergency first aid procedures—you can find them on the MSDS.

If you're unclear about your company's safety procedures for handling chemical substances, speak to your supervisor. Make sure you understand everything you need to know about protecting yourself and others from chemical hazards.

⊘ DON'T...

- ▲ Don't ever sniff a chemical to identify it.
- ▲ Don't wear contact lenses—they can absorb or trap chemicals against your eyes.
- ▲ Don't put your hands into corrosives or solvents unless you're wearing gloves.
- ▲ Don't use a chemical if you don't know what it is.
- ▲ Don't skip safety precautions to get the job done faster.

