

SOLVENTS, CHEMICAL CLEANING, WATER TREATMENT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

A. Rule

All chemicals and solvents are treated as potential hazards from initial delivery to ultimate use and require the use of safe practices at all times.

B. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each employee and all levels of supervision to be aware of the hazards related to the use of solvents, chemical cleaning materials, water treatment and other chemicals and to enforce the rules related to their use. The location and use of eyewash/safety shower stations and other first aid materials shall be known prior to working in the areas where their use may be required.

C. Selection of Chemical Materials

The hazards to be considered in the selection of solvents, chemical cleaning materials, water treatment and the other chemicals shall be:

1. Contact with a hazardous material that can cause skin rash or dermatitis, corrosive burns, or eye damage.
2. Potential explosive or fire hazard.
3. The ingestion of a poisonous, corrosive, or other hazardous substance through the mouth or absorbed through the skin.
4. The inhalation of a volatile solvent, gas, or toxic dust that may produce asphyxiation, intoxication, or damage to mucous membrane and internal organs.

D. Handling of Chemical Materials

Solvents, chemical cleaning, water treatment, and other chemicals shall be handled in accordance with industry safe practice and the instructions on the label. Appropriate warning signs shall be posted in areas where a hazardous material is in use.

E. Storage of Chemical Materials

Solvents, chemical cleaning, water treatment and other chemicals shall be stored in accordance with industry safe practices and the instructions on the container label.

Note: Acids and bases or oxidizers and reducers are not stored in the same cabinet due to the possibility of extremely violent reactions between the two. ACID SHOULD NEVER BE MIXED WITH AN ALKALINE SOLUTION.

F. Protection Equipment

Use of protection equipment is required to protect more than the eyes when handling certain solvents and chemicals. Coverall goggles are recommended. Full face protection, including full face shields and coverall goggles, is the best way to minimize serious eye and face injury.

G. First Aid

First aid procedures vary depending on the chemical nature of the material ingested or splashed. Instruction on the container label must be followed.

In the event an employee should come in to contact with solvents or chemicals in the eyes or on the skin, the affected area should be irrigated for a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes when an eye wash station or shower is immediately available. If eye wash stations and showers are not immediately available to the employee's work area, sink locations when clean water is available may be used to irrigate the affected area.

If an employee receives a splash or ingests chemical materials and irrigation facilities or clean water is not available, he/she should immediately be referred to a hospital emergency room.