

SEE CARE SHARE SAFETY CONVERSATION



SEE

WE LOOK



CARE



SHARE

WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

CHEMICAL SAFETY

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO LEARN

In this Safety Conversation you are going to learn about how to safely handle the chemicals we use for various cleaning and sanitising tasks.

HOW IT WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR JOB

Following this conversation, you will:

- Know how to dispense, dilute and use cleaning chemicals safely
- Be aware of the precautions that need to be taken to protect yourself



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Cleaning chemicals can cause injury, particularly if they come into contact with eyes or if they are accidentally ingested or inhaled. Contact with skin can result in burns, a rash, eczema or chronic skin irritation.

The first step is to make sure you are selecting the right chemical for the task you are completing. You should refer to the Task Cards or Cleaning Schedule in your unit and ask your manager if in any doubt. Task Cards are available for all cleaning chemicals we use. They tell you:

- What task the chemical is used for
- What PPE is required
- How to dispense and where relevant dilute the chemical
- How to use the chemical correctly

Be prepared and make sure you have all PPE required, such as goggles and gloves, before attempting to dispense or use any cleaning product. Follow any instructions for dilution accurately. Increasing the dosage doesn't increase the effectiveness.

Often PPE is only required whilst handling concentrated cleaning products. This includes when dispensing the chemical with a Pelican Pump for example. Given the very short time you are handling the concentrated cleaning chemical, wearing PPE might seem excessive or needless.

However, wearing goggles for the few seconds it takes to pump a chemical into a sink or spray bottle will protect you from any accidental splashes and can save you a trip to A&E.

As a rule, when diluting cleaning chemicals, water is added to a container before the cleaning chemical. This reduces the risk of contact with concentrated chemicals.

Never mix cleaning products as chemical reactions can produce toxic fumes or even explosions. Cleaning chemicals must never be decanted into unmarked containers, such as cups or glasses, or into a wrong container, such as a spray bottle for a different product.

When you have finished with a chemical always fasten the lid tightly and store it upright in a safe location.

If you accidentally come into contact with a chemical, wash it off immediately with cold water and report this to your manager, who will make sure that you seek medical advice if necessary.

SPEAK OUT

- Let your supervisor or manager know if there are any defects to the dispenser or if PPE is missing or damaged

BE MINDFUL

- Take your time and be careful when dispensing chemicals; this will reduce the chance of splashes or spillages, which could result in eyes or skin coming into contact with concentrated chemicals.
- Ensure that your PPE is correctly fitted, even when filling up just one bottle.

GET INVOLVED

- Encourage your colleagues to work safely and to follow the correct procedure when dispensing, diluting and using chemicals
- Ensure any spillages are cleared up appropriately

MORE INFORMATION

- Cleaning Schedules
- Chemical Product Task Card
- Chemical Product Assessment
- Informational Signage
- [Chemical Safety Page](#) on the HSE Website