



SAFETY



CONVERSATION



WHAT YOU'RE 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 your self

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

Make sure you have all PPE, such as goggles and gloves, before attempting to dispense or use any cleaning product. Follow any instructions for dilution accurately.

As a rule, water is added to a container before the cleaning chemical whenever it is being diluted. This reduces the risk of contact with concentrated chemicals. Never mix cleaning products as chemical reactions can produce toxic fumes or even explosions.

Often PPE is only required whilst handling concentrated cleaning products. This includes when dispensing the chemical with a Pelican Pump for example, which given the very short time you are handling the concentrated cleaning chemical, 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.

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

PUTTING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT INTO PRACTICE

- Check which chemicals you are going to be working with in your unit
- Make sure you know where PPE for use with chemicals is kept

Topic: Chemical Safety



BE MINDFUL

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

SPEAK OUT

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

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

YOU'RE VALIDATION

- Where should you look if you are unsure of how to dispense and dilute a chemical?
- How do you make sure you have the correct chemical to use for a task?
- What should you do if you can't find goggles or gloves?

MORE INFORMATION

- Cleaning Schedules
- COSHH Product Task Card
- COSHH Product Assessment
- Informational Signage
- HSE Website



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share

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