



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Stormwater Management Information Sheet 4.3



General Information About Hazardous Substances

Useful contacts for further information:

- City of Kingston on 8585 3379.
- EPA Victoria on 9695 2722
- EPA Dandenong on 8710 5555
- EPA Pollution Watch Line on 9695 2777
- Victorian WorkCover Authority advisory service on 9641 1444 or 1800 136 089
- Yellow Pages. Look under 'Oil and Chemical Spill Recovery or Dispersal Services'. Also look under 'Environmental and Pollution Consultants'.



What Are Hazardous Substances

In factories hazardous substances may include chemicals and other materials that you use or produce that have the potential to harm human health if not stored or handled correctly.

Use Safer Chemicals If Possible

It may be possible for you to substitute less environmentally damaging materials or chemicals. Check for less harmful alternatives.

Dangerous Goods

Materials classified as dangerous goods are marked with a class label showing the type of hazard such as an explosive, a gas, a flammable liquid or solid, a poison, or a radioactive or corrosive substance.

The use and storage of dangerous goods is controlled by the Road and Rail (Australian Dangerous Goods Code). Check the regulations about the type of dangerous goods you have.

For information on the storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods check with the Victorian WorkCover Authority on 9641 1444 or 1800 136 089 (See also web site address below).

DANGEROUS GOODS



Individual Dangerous Goods - Hazard Class Diamonds



Warning notice for Dangerous Goods Package Store



Warning notice for Dangerous Goods Bulk Store

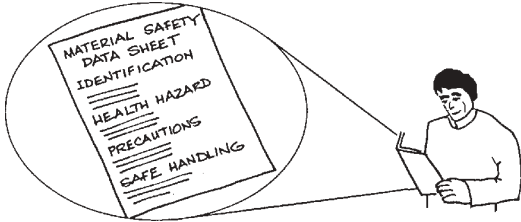
Placarding And Signage

If you store certain types or quantities of chemicals you may need to have placarding at entry points to your site or factory. Signs may also be required next to the storage area and be more specific. Information displayed on placarding will help emergency services such as the fire brigade in the event of a spill or fire.

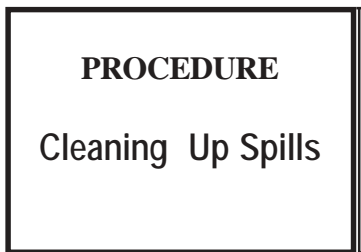
Placarding must comply with the Dangerous Goods Act, Regulations and Code of Practice (refer to Victorian WorkCover Authority website: www.workcover.vic.gov.au and search for 'Dangerous Goods').



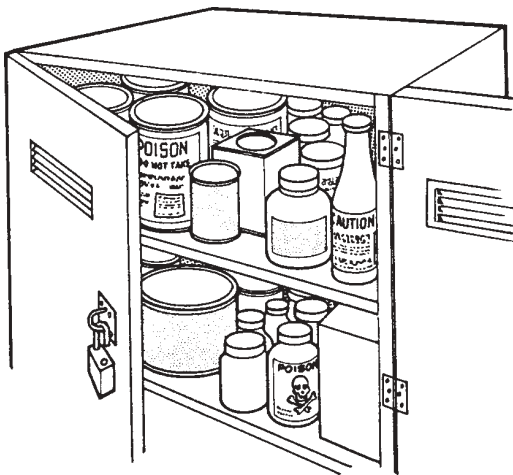
Read label on product



Check MSDS



Make sure your staff know what to do in an emergency



Store your hazardous materials safely



Labels And Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Read the labels on all chemical products. The label will help you to identify the product, its ingredients and the hazards or dangers of the product.

The label also has important health and safety information. Victorian WorkCover Authority has some useful publications on managing chemical hazards in the workplace.

Have on hand the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each hazardous substance used. An MSDS is an information sheet on the safe use and disposal of a hazardous substance.

In an EMERGENCY the MSDS has information that can save lives and prevent pollution. Ask your supplier for a MSDS for **every** hazardous substance you buy and / or use.

Set Up Safe Working Procedures

Make sure all staff know and understand the possible hazards of the chemicals you use. Set up practices and procedures to prevent leaks, spills and emergency situations that could harm your employees or the environment.

Have a SPILL CLEAN-UP PLAN to show staff what to do in an emergency.

Storing Hazardous Substances

Store chemicals in a set area away from stormwater drains. Bund storage areas.

Store each type of chemical in a separate container. Clearly label each container with the name of the chemical it contains. DO NOT store incompatible chemicals with each other.

Clearly label any waste chemical that is put into another container prior to correct disposal. It may be necessary to remove the original label or to make it illegible otherwise confusion could occur (eg, if you put waste thinners into a drum originally marked 'Hydraulic oil' then the label must be changed)

You May Need An EPA Victoria Permit

For information on the storage and transport of prescribed industrial waste contact EPA Victoria (Environment Protection Authority Victoria) on 9695 2722. Check: www.epa.vic.gov.au and refer to Stormwater Information Sheet 2.0 'Waste Storage, Recycling and Disposal' in this series.