

SEE-MORE SAFETY SAYS...

Taking Worksite Chemicals Seriously – Your Right to Know

If you work with chemicals, you are one of 35 million workers exposed to one or more of the 650,000 chemicals in over 3.5 million companies across the country. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recognized a growing need to protect workers like you in 1983 when it issued a rule called “Hazard Communication,” or just “HazCom.” You may have also heard the rule called “Right-to-Know.” That is because it is your right to know about the chemical hazards you work with and how you can protect yourself from injury and illness.



The rule will ensure you get trained on the following:

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), the source for information on chemicals in your work area.
- The job site’s written program regarding hazard communication.
- Chemical labeling, the way to use labels to determine hazards of chemicals in use on the site.

Because chemicals can appear in many places on a job site, be aware of the following potentially hazardous chemicals that are commonly found and used on construction sites. Read their labels when you use them:

Chemicals commonly used in construction

Aluminum	Dynamite	X	Oxygen	X
Asphalt	Epoxy Resin	X	Paint	X
Asbestos	Fiberglass		Pesticides	X
Battery fluids	Formaldehyde	X	Refrigerants	
Benzene	Freon		Sealers	X
Bleach	Galvanized metal	X	Shellacs	
Cadmium	Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	X	Solders	
Carbon dioxide	Glues	X	Solvents	X
Carbon monoxide	Grinding wheels	X	Steel (when welded/cut)	X
Caulk	Iron	X	Sulfuric acid	
Cement, Portland & PVC Pipe	Isopropyl alcohol	X	Turpentine	
Chlorine	Janitorial supplies		Varnishes	
Cleaning agents	Lead	X	Wood dust	
Detergents	LP Gas	X	Wood preservatives	