



PROPER CHEMICAL SAFETY TIPS

Following these tips can reduce safety risks for employees who work with or around chemicals

CREATE A RESPONSE PLAN

Safe handling begins with a plan. Your protocols should include comprehensive training programs to ensure all employees understand your standard operating procedures regarding hazardous substances.

ALWAYS READ LABELS

Before using any chemical, workers should always check the label to make sure they know exactly what it is. They also should look for any warnings that detail the safest methods for using them.



INSPECT EQUIPMENT REGULARLY

Containers and equipment used to handle chemicals need to be in good working order. Check glassware for signs of cracking, and make sure any safety goggles or other gear that has been compromised is disposed of properly.

KEEP AIR FLOWING

Good ventilation can be essential for a safe working environment when chemicals are involved. Fumes can mix in the air and create dangerous conditions. This is why laboratories and other areas where chemical use is common should have proper airflow and filtration systems in place.



PROVIDE EYEWASH STATIONS & SHOWERS

When personnel are exposed to dangerous materials, they may only have moments before they are permanently harmed. Emergency eyewash areas and showers should be easily accessible and clearly marked so they can be used as quickly as possible.

GET ORGANIZED

Mistaken identity can be deadly with certain chemicals. This is why storage areas should always be organized and labeled. Work areas also must be kept neat and uncluttered to prevent accidents.



USE PROTECTIVE GEAR

Gloves, goggles and coveralls are just a few examples of the types of safety wear for employees. Make sure your staff has access to these and understands how to use them correctly.

FOCUS ON TRAINING

Without regular training and refreshers, even the most well-conceived plans might as well not exist. The best way to help guarantee that everyone follows the proper procedures is through education.

