



## New & Expectant Mothers Hazardous Substances

*Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site.*

Many workplace activities involve the use of substances which could harm our health unless precautions are taken. Common substances such as chemicals cement, adhesives, solvents, cleaning materials, etc, all pose a risk.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH for short), place duties on employers and employees. They set out a sensible step-by-step approach for the control of hazardous substances and for protecting people exposed to them.

### Key Points

- Substances have to be assessed: categories include very-toxic, toxic, harmful, irritant, corrosive, flammable etc.
- Manufacturers and suppliers must provide information (Safety Data Sheets), when asked to enable assessments to be done.
- Employers have to introduce control measures appropriate to their own assessment.
- Best control measure is – use something else instead which is less hazardous or non-hazardous.
- Last resort control measure is – provide PPE i.e., gloves, goggles, overalls, etc.
- Your employer must inform and instruct operatives about the risks and provide training on the precautions to be taken. The assessment must be to hand during chemical use, normally in the Site Office.
- You employer must monitor the use of the substance and check that controls are adequate and if necessary arrange medical checks for workers.
- Employees legally must use any control measures provided. Use any PPE provided, in the way it was intended, use any washing, changing, eating accommodation provided, in the way it was intended.
- Employees must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others. Read labels on packaging and follow the instructions carefully.
- Employees must tell their supervisor immediately if you are unsure about a substance or if you have a health problem.

**Note: It is a mandatory company requirement that no substance hazardous to health is used, unless the relevant suppliers Safety Data Sheets are available and appropriate Risk Assessment has been undertaken.**

Check the label and know the indications of danger

 <p>CORROSIVE</p>	 <p>IRRITANT</p>	 <p>HARMFUL</p>	 <p>TOXIC</p>	 <p>EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE</p>
 <p>DANGEROUS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p>	 <p>CORROSIVE</p>	 <p>HIGHLY FLAMMABLE</p>	 <p>EXPLOSIVE</p>	 <p>OXIDIZING</p>

## Toolbox Attendance

Questions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Concerns? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Days since Last Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Meeting Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures of attendees:


Manager review comments:

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Manager signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Review: \_\_\_\_\_