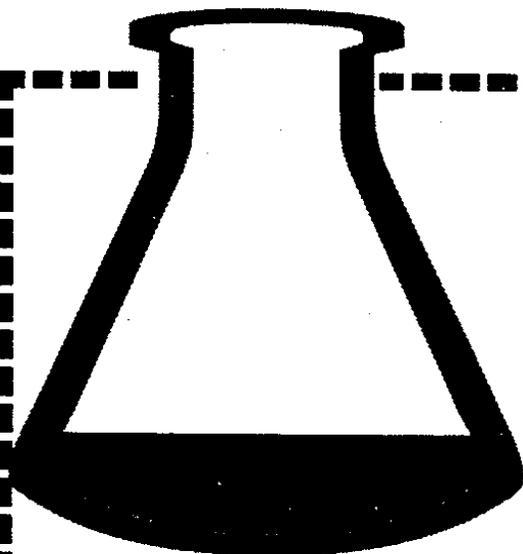


# PROTECTING AGAINST CHEMICAL HAZARDS

## *Your Checklist For Safe Use Of Chemicals*

Corrosives, solvents, and other chemical substances can be potentially dangerous. But, they needn't be harmful when they are handled, stored, and disposed of safely. The following checklist is your guide to protecting against chemical hazards before they can become chemical emergencies.



- ✓ Read container labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). They will list safe handling procedures, such as "Wait for corrosive (or solvent) to dry completely before welding or cutting metal."
- ✓ Always add acids to water (not the other way around) to prevent boiling over and splashing.
- ✓ Never sniff a chemical to identify its type or location.
- ✓ Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with chemicals. These may include chemical splash goggles, full-face respirators, safety gloves, barrier creams, splash aprons, corrosive-resistant boots or any combination of the above.
- ✓ Make sure that PPE fits properly and that you know how to use it.
- ✓ When using respirators, match your canister or cartridge to the correct respirator and the particular chemical and replace when necessary.
- ✓ Don't wear contact lenses; these can absorb chemicals or trap them against your eyes.
- ✓ Know the location of eyewash stations and safety showers and how to use them. (In most cases, if you are exposed to a chemical splash, they will be your first emergency treatment.)
- ✓ Slowly mix corrosives or solvents, or dip parts into them.
- ✓ Never put your hands into corrosives or solvents—even if you are wearing gloves.
- ✓ Always wash your hands well before eating or smoking, and before and after every shift.
- ✓ Use engineering controls, including fans, exhaust hoods, and other ventilation systems installed for your protection.
- ✓ Know emergency first aid procedures.
- ✓ If you are unclear about your company's safety procedures for handling chemical substances, speak to your supervisor. Make sure you understand *everything* you need to know about protecting yourself from chemical hazards