

COSHH Guidance

Cleaning Materials

Hazards

- ▶ Bleach
- Detergents
- Oven cleaners
- Disinfectant sprays etc.

How they could cause harm

- ▶ Contact through the skin or eyes
- ▶ Inhalation breathing in fumes or vapours
- ▶ Ingestion accidentally swallowing substances
- ▶ Injection puncture through the skin from broken glass or needle

Risks

- Nose, throat and eye irritation
- Skin irritation, dermatitis
- Respiratory irritation, breathing problems
- Headaches, nausea, dizziness

Control measures

- Use a less harmful cleaning product
- ▶ Avoid or minimise contact with harmful substances
- Keep work area well ventilated (where possible)
- Erect barriers and notices (where required)
- Store cleaning products safely
- ▶ PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) gloves, aprons and eye protection should be worn (where required)

Hazard identification



- This symbol means the substance is corrosive
- ► The substance can cause burns to the skin and eyes

Found in

- Bleach
- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Toilet cleaners



- This symbol means the substance is harmful
- The substance can irritate the skin or eyes
- ▶ Can be harmful if swallowed or inhaled

Found in

- Washing up liquid
- Anti-bacterial sprays
- Disinfectant spray
- Floor cleaners

Line manager's responsibilities

Training & Supervision

- Provide supervision and training ensure that safe work practices are followed
- ▶ Inform workers of any risks that may be present
- Risk and COSHH assessments should be made available to staff working with hazardous substances

Health Surveillance

- ▶ Explain the early signs of dermatitis
- Instruct staff to:
 - Conduct skin checks for dermatitis and be aware of their own health
 - Are they having breathing difficulties?

Health surveillance with Occupational Health supplier may be required if exposure to hazardous substances is ongoing or ill health effects are noted.