# Student worksheet - Hazardous substances and Dangerous goods

## Key messages

**As a work experience student, you are not allowed to work with or handle hazardous substances or dangerous goods.** However, as you may be in a workplace which contains these substances, it is important to discuss the rules and regulations surrounding them.

* Hazardous substances are found in most workplaces and include many commonly used chemicals.
* First aid treatment for hazardous substances and dangerous goods should be part of workplace induction
* If you are exposed to these substances, they can to make you ill.
* A hazardous substance can be any substance, whether solid, liquid or gas, that may cause harm to your health.
* You must always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by your employer.

### You must:

* Follow safe work procedures.
* Always wear the right personal protective equipment and clothing provided by your employer.
* Do not eat or drink near a hazardous substance or dangerous goods.
* Do not keep food or drink near the substances.
* Wash your hands and face and other exposed areas with soap and water before going to the toilet, eating and drinking.
* Hazardous substances may be things you see every day such as paint, glue, cleaning liquid and powders.
* Dangerous goods may be corrosive, flammable, explosive, spontaneously combustible, toxic, oxidising, or water-reactive. They must be identified in the workplace (and when being transported) by different coloured 'diamond' symbols.

## Everyday hazardous substances and dangerous goods

Hazardous substances and dangerous goods are used almost every day. It may be antiseptic for a cut, paint for the walls, or a cleaning product for the bathroom. While they may seem harmless, even these ordinary things can make you very sick if they are not used properly.

Some common products that contain chemicals are:

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| Petrol | Alcohol | Glue |
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| Battery Acid | Household Cleaner | Fertilizers |
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| Hair Dye | Oil Based Paints | Pesticides |

## Classified hazardous substances and dangerous goods

**Hazardous substances** are classified on the basis of their potential health effects, whether acute (immediate) or chronic (long-term).



**Dangerous goods** are classified on the basis of immediate physical or chemical effects, such as fire, explosion, and corrosion or poisoning. An accident involving dangerous goods could seriously harm your health, damage property or the environment.

**What can happen?**

Harm to health may happen suddenly (acute), such as dizziness, nausea and itchy eyes or skin; or it may happen gradually over years (chronic), such as dermatitis or cancer.

## Activity 1. Identifying hazardous substances Activity symbol

Work with a classmate and make a list of all the substances that you may use or come into contact with every day. For example: dishwashing liquid, washing powder.

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Make a list of possible hazardous substances and where you would find them. For example: at home, at school, in the workplace, out shopping, in the garden shed.

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## Activity 2. What makes a substance dangerous?

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| Hazardous substance | Symbol | Why is it dangerous? |
| Disinfectant | Poison |  |
| Snail pellets |  |  |
| Medications |  |  |
| Petrol can |  |  |
| Spray paint |  |  |

### Talk with your classmates, teachers, parents or carer and get help to answer these very important questions.

How are dangerous goods classified?

*Hint: Can they explode? Do they give off a smell, or smoke? Can they catch on fire?*

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What is meant by ‘acute’ and ‘chronic’ health effects?

*Hint: Did the pain or health condition start suddenly? Or has it developed over time?*

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