



Hazardous substances

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Hazardous substances cover a wide range of substances, with an equally wide range of effects. These substances could be hazardous to inhale or touch, acidic, affect reproductive health, or may be highly flammable or explosive.

Follow these four simple steps to reduce risk of injury.

Identify



Create an inventory of hazardous substances at your site, including information from the product Safety Data Sheet

Assess



Assess the potential harm to workers from each product's Safety Data Sheet

Control



Use controls listed below to reduce the risk of harm from hazardous substances

Monitor



Review your hazardous substance register
Regular review of Worker Health Plan

Hazardous substances used in the extractives industry include:

- explosives and detonators
- compressed gases
- cyanide
- lead
- mercury
- acids
- resins (eg polyurethane resins)
- paints and solvents
- petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

Plan for an emergency:

- train your workers on what to do in an emergency
- keep your inventory of hazardous substances readily accessible to emergency services workers
- label all hazardous substances and ensure the label is readable and stays on the container
- have a safety data sheet for each hazardous substance at your workplace; and make them readily accessible to workers and emergency services
- be prepared to deal with a spill or leak of hazardous substances

Controls include:



- **Inform and train workers on the dangers of hazardous substances**
- **Ensure containers of hazardous substances are clearly and correctly labelled**
- **Install signs at key points where substances are used or stored**
- **Keep the amount of hazardous substances you store to a minimum**
- **Store them safely and in accordance with Hazardous Substance Regulations**

For more information see [A guide to Worker Health in Extractives](#) on the MinEx website.