

# SafetyTalk

## Topic: Chemical Use

Chemical use guidelines should be followed for all chemicals. A chemical management resource guide developed by the Environmental Protection Agency provides information to educational organizations on chemical safety – find a link to the EPA below. Here are a few tips for safely using and storing chemicals.

### General Safety Tips

- Chemicals should only be used when necessary and for their intended purpose.
- Do not mix chemicals if it is not required. Unauthorized mixing can cause inhalation illnesses.
- If chemicals must be mixed, strictly follow the manufacturer's guidelines.
- There should be an accessible safety data sheet (SDS) on file for each chemical.
- Be aware of the hazards of the chemicals as noted on the SDS.
- Be aware of the required personal protective equipment (PPE) required for each chemical that is used.
- First aid should be readily available when chemicals are in use, such as water for flushing eyes or skin.
- Do not directly inhale chemical fumes. If necessary, the wafting method should be used, which involves gently waving the fumes with your hand, so you do not directly inhale a chemical.
- Only pre-approved chemicals (with safety data sheets) should be allowed on premises.
- All containers of chemicals should be properly labeled.

### Topics to Discuss

- Chemicals used at your organization
- Location of safety data sheets
- How to read the SDS and container labels
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standards (HCS)
- Proper ventilation guidelines
- Actions to follow if/when a chemical accident occurs

### Resources

For more information about this topic, visit:

- UH Resource Library – Chemicals : [UnitedHeartland.com/resource-library](https://www.unitedheartland.com/resource-library)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration – Chemical Hazards: [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov)
- Department of Human Health and Services: [HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov)
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: [CDC.org/NIOSH](https://www.cdc.org/niosh)
- Environmental Protection Agency: [EPA.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

# SafetyTalk

**Topic:** Chemical Use

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**Date:**

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**Location:**

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**Meeting Organizer:**

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**Organization Name**

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**Items Discussed:**

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**Problem Areas or Concerns:**

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**Attendees (Names/Signatures):**


**Comments:**

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