Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Caring for Health
Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg
À l'écoute de notre santé

Safety Talk: Chemical Safety

Do you know…

- WRHA has a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) online database for all facilities
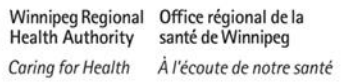
In healthcare settings, chemicals are often used to clean, disinfect, sterilize, and support various medical treatments. While these chemicals are essential to maintaining a safe and sterile environment, they can pose serious health risks if not handled, stored, and disposed of properly.

How to Stay Safe:

1. **Read and understand labels**: Always read the labels and safety data sheets (SDS) for chemicals you're working with. The SDS will provide crucial information about the chemical's properties, hazards, first aid instructions, and safe handling procedures.
2. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: Appropriate PPE should always be worn when handling chemicals. This may include gloves, eye protection, face shields, aprons, and respirators. The type of PPE required will depend on the chemical and the task at hand.
3. **Work in a well-ventilated area.**
4. **Store chemicals safely:** Chemicals should be stored according to the SDS to avoid accidents.
5. **Dispose of chemicals correctly:** When you are done with a chemical, don't just throw it away. Ask your supervisor how to properly dispose of chemicals, so they don't harm people or the environment.
6. **Know what to do if there's a spill:** If a chemical spills, it's important to know what to do. Follow your site-specific Code Brown Policy/ Plan if applicable.
7. **Ask for help:** If you are unsure about how to use or handle a chemical, always ask for help. It's better to ask than to guess and make a mistake and put yourself and others at risk.
8. **Stay up to date on your LMS WHMIS training which is required every 3 years!**

More information on this is available in the WHMIS Operational Procedure (OP) & Hazardous Materials Spill – Code Brown OP. Where can you find a copy of these OPs?

WRHA Insite - Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) - OESH - Policies, Operational Procedures and Guidelines - OESH Environmental Safety – _OP – Workplace Hazardous Products Information System_ & _OP - Code Brown_

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Training Record		
Presented by:	**Site/ Facility:**	
	Department/ Unit:	
Topic:		
Attendees		
Insert Full Name	**Sign off**	**Date**