

SR13

COSHH essentials for service and retail



This information will help employers (including the self-employed and franchisees) comply with the Control of Substances

Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure and protect workers' health.

It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice using extraction to control nuisance odours and dusts. It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

For cosmetic products, get information from your product representative. Observe any warning labels for safe use on the product container, packaging or leaflet.

For other products get a safety data sheet from your supplier and seek safer substitutes.

Main points

- Vapour can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea and irritation.
- Dust from fingernails and hardeners can cause asthma.
- Depilatory waxes, skin lighteners, adhesives and nail polishes can cause dermatitis.

Nail bars and other beauty services

Control approach 2 Engineering control

Access and premises

- ✓ Keep the workplace well organised, with exit routes clear.
- ✓ Provide good washing facilities.

Equipment

- ✓ Provide sterile single-use instruments whenever possible.
- ✓ Provide a good standard of general ventilation; 5-10 air changes per hour, with a through draught.
- ✓ To control odour, you may need a downdraught table - see illustration. If so, apply a downdraught around 1 metre per second. Filter air for return to the salon or to discharge outside.
- ✓ Dispose of concentrate containers safely or return them to the supplier.

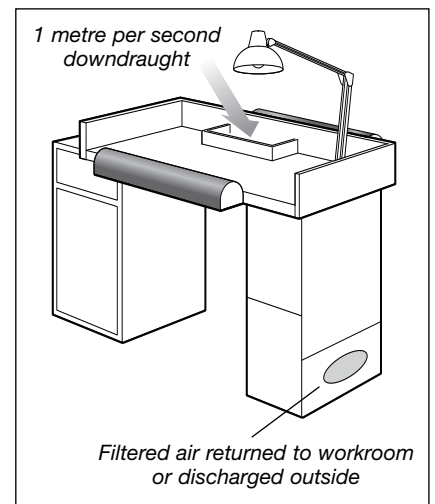
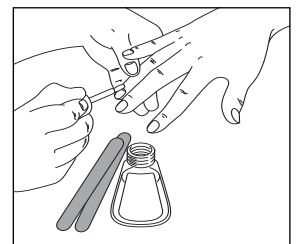
Caution: Don't store more than 50 litres of flammable liquid indoors. Use a flammables store.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Provide protective gloves - single-use nitrile gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, use only 'low protein, powder-free' gloves.
- ✓ Throw away 'single use' gloves every time they are taken off.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin protection and help in washing contamination from the skin. These are not 'barrier creams'. After-work creams help to replace skin oils.

Procedures

- ✓ Buy liquids in containers that are easy to pour from, don't dribble, and don't trap liquid in a rim.
- ✓ Store products containing chemicals securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don't store far more than you need.
- ✓ Make up only as much solution as you will need for immediate use.
- ✓ Put the cap back on the container straight away.
- ✓ Put used gauze pads soaked with adhesive, resin or solvent in a polythene bag, and dispose of this in a lidded bin.



Special Care

- ✓ Some products (eg resin hardeners) can cause asthma. Dust from fingernails can cause asthma.
- ✓ Nail sculpture using acrylic resins create dust and vapour that can cause wheezing and chest tightness.
- ✓ UV curable resins and other acrylic resins can cause dermatitis.
- ✓ Many products (e.g. depilatory waxes, nail polishes) contain colophony or rosin, which can cause dermatitis.

Maintenance, examination and testing

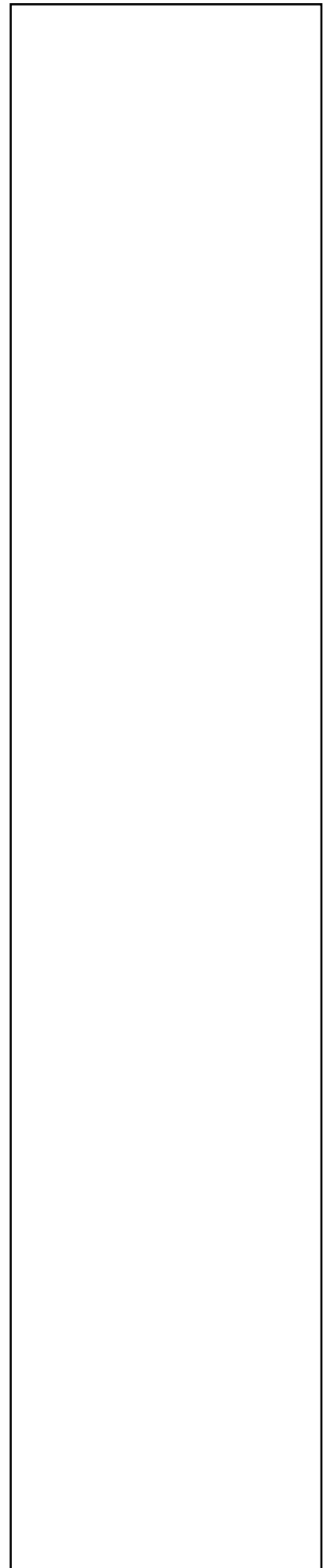
- ✓ Wash out mixing equipment after use. Dispose of washings safely.
- ✓ If you have a downdraught table for odour control, get a competent engineer to examine it thoroughly and to test its performance regularly (eg annually).
- ✓ Replace charcoal filters when the odour control begins to fail, or as advised by your equipment supplier.

Health monitoring

- ✓ Ask your workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every six months. If these effects appear, check the proper use of skin creams and PPE.
- ✓ Check if any information about the product says 'may cause sensitisation by skin contact' or 'may cause sensitisation by inhalation'. If so, seek advice from the product representative and see sheets G402 (asthma) and G403 (dermatitis).
- ✓ Consult an occupational health professional if workers report sore eyes, runny nose, coughing, wheezing, breathing difficulties or skin problems that seem to be connected with work. See 'Useful links'.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Keep the work area clean.
- ✓ Disinfect shower heads once a week.
- ✓ Clear up spills promptly. Provide granules to absorb spills, and a lidded bin to store this waste for disposal.



Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell workers about the risks of using the product - see products labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet.
- ✓ If products can cause skin or eye damage, plan how to give first aid.
- ✓ Working in the right way and using the controls correctly is important for exposure control. Train and supervise workers. See sheet SR0.

Further information

- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 0 7176 1826 9
- *Preventing dermatitis at work: Advice for employers and employees* Leaflet INDG233 HSE Books 1996 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 ISBN 0 7176 1246 5)
- *Preventing asthma at work. How to control respiratory sensitisers* L55 HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0661 9
- *Maintenance, examination and testing of local exhaust ventilation* HSG54 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998 ISBN 0 7176 1485 9

Useful links

- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165 Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk.
- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com.
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at www.bohs.org for lists of qualified hygienists who can help you.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services' for 'occupational health'.
- Also see www.nhsplus.nhs.uk.

Employee checklist

- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Wash your hands after use, and before and after eating, drinking, smoking and using the lavatory.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products or solvents.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Dry your hands thoroughly after washing. Avoid keeping your hands in water for a long time. Use skin creams provided as often as possible.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.