

SAFETY ALERT

HSE-ALERT-006

Date: 10th March 2016

Area of Concern: All JCU staff and Students

Chemical Safety

A variety of chemicals are used at the University. Some of these are hazardous, posing a risk of injury or illness if not handled properly. Cleaners, solvents and detergents are examples of potentially hazardous chemicals when misused.

Recent incidents have occurred at JCU which has prompted the release of this alert and is a good reminder to ensure you know the safety precautions associated with the substances you are using.

By following these safe practices when using chemicals, workers can protect themselves and others against chemical hazards. This includes ensuring the safe use, handling and storage of substances:

- All chemicals have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) which lists the products specific hazards and safety precautions required. Ensure you read and understand this prior to using the product.
- At JCU the ChemWatch system is to be updated with the substances stored in the location.
- Always wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when using chemicals. The SDS will tell you what you are required to wear.
- Keep containers closed when not in use and use in well ventilated areas.
- Check the SDS for disposal methods. Avoid tipping chemicals down the sink as the smell may infiltrate through the building and affect others.
- Only use the required amount of substance for the task.
- Ensure chemical containers are labelled properly. If you do not have an appropriate label, obtain one from ChemWatch or ask a Lab Tech for assistance.
- Know the emergency procedures for your area.

Need more information

The Health & Safety unit acknowledges that the University carries out a broad range of activities and supports the application of a practical and risk-based approach to safety. If you are unsure of how to comply with the chemical safety standards, please contact the HSE Team.

Information on Hazardous Chemicals at JCU can be found at the following link:
<https://www.jcu.edu.au/work-health-and-safety/hazardous-chemicals>