

Toolbox No.2	Issue No. 1	Date: May 2023
	TOOL BOX TALK	
	<u>Dermatitis Awareness</u>	

Scope:

Dermatitis is a skin condition which can be prevented. It is caused by a reaction to a substance on your skin. The symptoms include red, swollen and tender skin, hot and itchy patches or in severe cases, blisters. Exposure over a long period of time can cause thickening of the skin. Substances that can cause dermatitis for some people upon contact with the skin include acids, alkalis, mineral based hydraulic oils, solvents, bleaches, glues, pollen, wood dust, nickel, some types of detergents, washing powders, fabric conditioners and even shower gels.



Things to Consider:

Some of the ways to prevent dermatitis are:

Assess the MSDS of all substances and produce SOP's for the safe handling of these substances

Avoid spills and splashes and clean up any mess promptly

Wear the correct protection for the task – use the correct gloves or PPE for the job

Do not wear dirty overalls for consecutive shifts

Use the barrier creams throughout the day and after work creams at the end of shift

Ensure you frequently wash your hands and arms with soap ensuring to rinse any exposed areas thoroughly

Always dry your skin thoroughly with clean paper towels and apply cream to replace oils after washing

Do not wipe any exposed skin with your gloves or PPE on as this could transmit the substances to areas without PPE

Ensure any minor cuts or scrapes are treated promptly to avoid any irritating substances entering the skin through these routes

1. Apply Barrier Cream regularly
2. Use designated PPE, nitrile gloves and protective sleeves
3. Follow personal hygiene protocols
4. Notify of any skin irritations

Takeaway Point:

It is possible to avoid Dermatitis with the correct preventative measures.

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Applicable Legislation:

[Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 SI 2002/2677](#)

[Personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[Occupational Health](#)

[Management of H&S at work with risk assessment](#)

Related Documents:

