

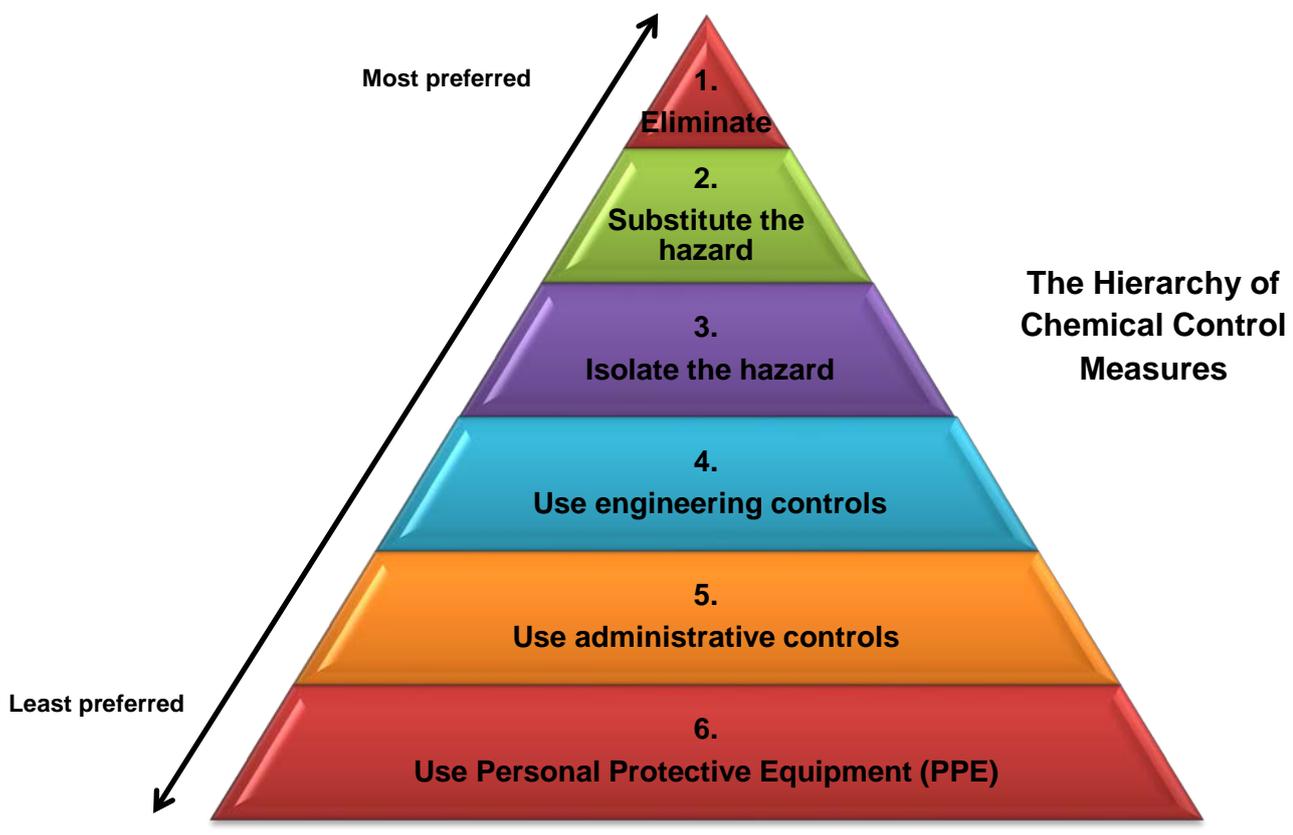
Chemical Controls

Once you have identified your hazards and assessed your risks, you need to control the exposure.

Take a look around your workplace and identify the control measures you already have in place:

- ◇ Training and information for employees?
- ◇ Personal protective equipment?
- ◇ Segregation and disposal of waste?
- ◇ Emergency evacuation plan and procedures?
- ◇ Appropriate ventilation?
- ◇ Work procedures?
- ◇ Good house-keeping?

Control measures include a number of actions which can be taken in the workplace to reduce the likelihood and severity of an accident or incident occurring.



1. Eliminate the hazard:

If you are using a hazardous chemical you should identify if a non-hazardous chemical can be used for the same work activity in order to eliminate the hazard.

2. Substitute the hazard with a less hazardous one:

If you are using a particularly hazardous substance, for example and cleaning product or paint you should try to substitute these with less hazardous cleaning products or paints.

3. Isolate the hazard:

Isolating a chemical hazard by placing it in a fume-hood, secured storage room or cabinet will ensure that fewer persons have access and are potentially exposed to that hazard. Access should be restricted to those who are required to use the chemicals to complete their work.

4. Use engineering controls:

Equipment is introduced or a work activity is redesigned to reduce the risk of harm, injury or ill-health occurring. This can include the use of ventilation systems to extract fumes and dusts associated with the chemicals.

5. Use administrative controls:

These controls are essential within your workplace:



- Employees need to be provided with the necessary training and information to ensure they know what the chemical hazards are, and how they can avoid exposure.
- Rules and standard operating procedures should provide the information necessary to carry out work safely.
- Ensure all chemicals are stored correctly.
- Ensure you have the correct safety signs in place.
- Have an emergency procedure in place.

6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Is the last line of defence! PPE must be suitable for the chemical in use. Refer to label and the SDS to determine the appropriate level of PPE required. PPE can include:



- Eye protection - Safety glasses/ goggles
- Face protection – face-guards
- Hand protection – gloves (appropriate for task)
- Skin protection - Aprons, lab-coats
- Respiratory protection – masks, respirators

Environmental Controls

Many chemicals used in the workplace are potentially harmful to our environment and need to be:

- identified as hazardous to the environment - use your SDS and label to identify this
- stored appropriately (e.g. flammable chemicals must be isolated from sources of heat)
- disposed of correctly – use your SDS to identify safe disposal methods

Never take risks with the disposal of chemicals