



Healthy  
Workplaces  
MANAGE  
DANGEROUS  
SUBSTANCES



# Practical tools and guidance on dangerous substances in workplaces

## Key Points

- Providing tools and guidance to prevent risks from dangerous substances is key to supporting enterprises to reduce workers' exposure and thereby the risks.
- You will find hundreds of descriptions and links to resources covering training, risk assessment, legislation and specific groups of workers, including women and migrant workers, in EU-OSHA's database 'Practical tools and guidance on dangerous substances' (<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/practical-tools-dangerous-substances>).
- Make use of the tools and guidance in the database. Using resources that others have thoughtfully prepared will save you a lot of time. You may learn something new and have even better ideas about how to reduce and manage the risks from dangerous substances!

## Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is running a Europe-wide campaign during 2018 and 2019 to promote the prevention of risks from dangerous substances in workplaces. The aim is to reduce the presence of and exposure to dangerous substances in workplaces by raising awareness of the risks and of effective ways of preventing them.

## Practical tools and guidance

Providing tools or giving guidance and support on the topic of dangerous substances in workplaces means covering a very wide range of tasks and possible risks. Consequently, there are a lot of tools and resources available. Tools and guidance are provided by national and international social partners, professional associations, governments, authorities and agencies.

They cover different substances and substance groups, different sectors and professions, different groups of workers and different tasks. The materials range from very basic — aiming to raise awareness and promote simple practical measures — to those that need a lot of specialised knowledge.

The providers of tools and resources often take a mixed approach to cover the following aspects: raising awareness of the issue, the scientific and legal backgrounds, managing risks, good practical solutions, specialised guidance for specific substances or substance groups, and support for the different types of solutions at source.

There is also an increasing trend towards providing information in more user-friendly visual ways. These include posters, infographics, and short language-free booklets, videos and animated films such as the **Napo films**. Many of these can be downloaded free of charge from the internet.

## EU-OSHA's resource database

EU-OSHA's database 'Practical tools and guidance on dangerous substances' contains descriptions and links to over 700 tools and resources to help you manage dangerous substances.

Check it out at: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/practical-tools-dangerous-substances>.

You can quickly and easily find the information you are looking for using the following filter options:

Country / Language / Sector or Industry / Work tasks / Health effects / Worker groups / Target groups / Type / Priority areas (Awareness raising, Managing risks, Carcinogens, Specific groups, Facts and figures, Substitution).



©iStockphoto / gijaxia



©iStockphoto / piraetorianphoto



©iStockphoto / 7postman



## Examples from the database

### Short video: Asthma of Antoine the baker

This award-winning video was created in the context of a campaign to prevent allergies in young bakers. The film is about Antoine, a young baker who discovers the occupational risks of his profession, such as respiratory allergies linked to flour dust. The video aims to encourage bakers, in particular the younger ones, to adopt good professional measures to protect their health, such as nose rinsing.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/node/13085>



Publisher: AG2R La Mondiale

### EU Guidance: Protecting health and safety of workers in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry

This non-binding guide provides information on and examples of good practice of implementing the health and safety directives, along with helpful explanations and practical examples of the hazards and risks encountered in farming, horticulture and forestry work. The guide contains a range of examples of good practice that have been either selected from existing guides or specially designed for this guide. It is available in 23 EU languages.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/node/12744>



© European Union, 2012

### Guide and videos: Construction dust: Dry sweeping

Surely cleaning up is a low-risk task? Think again. Dry sweeping concrete dust and other building debris can produce a lot of dust, which presents a high risk to workers' health. This web page explains how to and why you should control the risks by avoiding dry sweeping. Graphs show first how much silica is created by dry brushing concrete dust, then how the amount of dust drops dramatically when a vacuum cleaner is used to remove the dust. Even better, there is no resettling of dust later on.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/node/12180>



Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

## Guidance for national labour inspectors on addressing risks from worker exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) on construction sites

This guidance document aims to give national labour inspectors (NLI) confidence in addressing and regulating the risks from RCS, thereby increasing the effectiveness of their interventions on construction sites. Construction workers' health is just as important as their safety. The key ambition of the working group that wrote this guidance is to support NLI to tackle the health risks from RCS in exactly the same way as they would safety risks (e.g. from working at heights) on Europe's construction sites.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/node/12711>



©iStockphoto / BanksPhotos

## Illustrated PPE guide for gardeners, hairdressers, cleaners, launders, policemen, kitchen staff

'Personal Protective Equipment' is an illustrated guide to finding the gloves and other protective equipment you need to use in your daily work. The guide is available in Danish.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/node/11168>

Arbejdsbeklædning	
Kemi og biologi.	
Anvendelse til beskyttelse mod	Arbejdsbeklædning skal beskytte mod hudkontakt med væsker- og rensningsmidler indeholdende stoffer og materialer, der kan være skadelige, irriterende for huden og/eller åndedrætsorganerne. Ved kontakt med skadelige/irriterende midler skal arbejdsbeklædningen beskytte mod skadelige/bakterier/virus og mod påvirkning af medikamenter. F.eks. cytosolika.
Typen, beskyttelsesklasse, mærkning, lever og betydning	Det er vigtigt altid at indordne sig efter de lokale retningslinjer for brug af arbejdsbeklædning, der er gældende på den pågældende virksomhed eller institution. Arbejdsbeklædningen skal være: let, behagelig, sukkersure, forlænger og overtrækbar. For hjælp til valg af arbejdsbeklædning scan koden.
Hvor/til hvad anvendes værktøjerne?	Arbejdsbeklædningen skal yde beskyttelse under udførelsen af arbejdsopgaver i vaskeri, hvor der er risiko for kontakt med kemiske stoffer og materialer i form af støv, sprøjte og skåler samt personligt urenlige overflader, der kan være forurenet med skadelige/bakterier i form af blod, urin, opkast og ekskrementer samt medikamenter som cytosolika. Beskyttelsesovertræk/forlænger skal beskytte i indertøringen. Omvendt skal beskyttelsesovertræk/forlænger beskytte i indertøringen.
Tilpasning af værktøjerne	Arbejdsbeklædningen skal have den rette størrelse, god pasform og være komfortabel. Det sikrer den bedste beskyttelse.
Begrænsninger i brugen af værktøjerne	Som udgangspunkt skal arbejdsbeklædningen stiftes hver dag. Arbejdsbeklædningen skal være hel, ret og skiftes, hvis der sker gennemtrængning. For det område, der er angivet i tabellen, skal arbejdsbeklædningen skiftes ud med nye dagligt. Et arbejdsbeklædningsrevi i skyde eller trykluft, ydes ikke optimal beskyttelse og beskyttelsesdelen bør skiftes.
Holdbarhed, levetid og opbevaring	Følg leverandørens anvisninger for vedligehold, opbevaring, holdbarhed og levetid.
Tilbehør og kombinationsmuligheder	Ingen supplerende informationer.
Arbejdsforhold	Hygiejniske foranstaltninger, der underretter vaskerens ønsker om at beskytte personale og arbejdsbeklædning, skal foretages på et for personalet trykt og velkendt sted og gennemføres.

Vaskeri

Provider: Work environment council for the service sector

### Further information

If you would like to comment on the database or can recommend an interesting tool or piece of guidance that is not yet included in the database, please contact EU-OSHA at [partners@healthy-workplaces.eu](mailto:partners@healthy-workplaces.eu)

Further information on dangerous substances and how to manage them is available on the Healthy Workplaces campaign website <https://healthy-workplaces.eu/>

or in the thematic section on dangerous substances <https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances>

#EUhealthyworkplaces

