

Talk 10: Hazardous Substances & Storage



Why This Matters

Hazardous substances can burn skin, damage lungs, or react violently with other products. Proper storage protects people and ensures regulatory compliance.

Inventory & Documentation

- ✓ Keep the chemical register current with SDS for every product
- ✓ Label decanted containers—no product should be “unknown”
- ✓ Review expiry dates and dispose of outdated chemicals responsibly

Segregation & Storage

- ✓ Store acids, bases, oxidizers, and flammables separately
- ✓ Use bunds or drip trays to contain leaks
- ✓ Ventilate storage rooms and keep doors locked when unattended
- ✓ Stack containers no higher than recommended to avoid collapse

Handling & PPE

- ✓ Read the SDS before first use—note PPE, first aid, and incompatibilities
- ✓ Wear the specified gloves, eyewear, and respirators
- ✓ Never mix chemicals unless the procedure specifically requires it
- ✓ Wash hands and change contaminated clothing promptly

Before Using a Chemical

1. Confirm it is on the register and you have the current SDS
2. Check the container integrity and expiry date
3. Verify the work area ventilation and emergency shower/eyewash access
4. Confirm waste disposal arrangements

Discussion Points

- ✓ Where are the SDS folders or digital access points?
- ✓ Do we have enough bunded storage for upcoming deliveries?
- ✓ Who is trained to accept and log new chemicals?