TOOLBOX TALK AWARENESS PACKAGES

HAZ-SKN · Skin Health: Wet Work, Irritants and Wet Cement Awareness

Product Overview

Audience: Workers and supervisors whose hands are often wet or in contact with cement, cleaning products, solvents, oils or other irritants · Duration: 20–30 minutes

Version 1.0 · 22 November 2026

For anyone whose hands are often wet or in contact with cement, cleaning products, solvents or oils: how dermatitis starts, why wet cement burns, choosing and using gloves, looking after your skin, and reporting a rash early.

Work-related skin disease is common and often avoidable. Contact dermatitis, red, itchy, dry, cracked or blistered skin, mostly on the hands, is caused by wet work, irritants such as detergents, solvents and oils, and substances some people become allergic to, such as chemicals in cement, epoxy resins, hair dyes and rubber gloves. Wet cement is strongly alkaline and can cause serious burns that may not hurt until the damage is done.

This talk covers how dermatitis starts, wet work, irritants and allergies, wet cement burns and what to do about them, the controls from the top down, choosing and using gloves, looking after your skin, and why reporting early matters. It is awareness, not medical advice or a skin check.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Explain what contact dermatitis is, and how wet work, irritants and allergies cause it
- Explain why wet cement burns, and why the burn may not hurt at first
- Use the controls in order: avoid contact first, then gloves and other PPE
- Choose gloves from the SDS and the task, and keep them clean and dry inside
- Look after your skin: wash gently, dry well and moisturise
- Recognise the early signs of skin problems and report them early

What it covers

Module	Covers
Why it matters	What dermatitis is; Wet work and irritants; Wet cement burns
Controls that work	Keep it off your skin; The right gloves, used right; Skin care
Your part	Know the early signs; First aid for cement and chemicals; Report it early

Activities

- Where is the risk: workers look at four jobs, from kneeling in wet concrete to washing dishes all shift, and decide how to keep it off their skin

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- What would you do: workers decide what to do in four situations, from cement inside a boot to a rash that keeps coming back

What is in the package

Item	File
Editable PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes, plus PDF	02_TRAINING_PRESENTATION/Training Presentation.pptx and .pdf
Facilitator guide with a running sheet, discussion prompts and model answers	03_FACILITATOR_GUIDE/Facilitator Guide.docx and .pdf
Participant handout with the key points to take away	04_PARTICIPANT_HANDOUT/Participant Handout.docx and .pdf
Attendance record form, to capture who attended, when, and who facilitated	06_RECORDS/Attendance Record.docx and .pdf
Excel attendance register	06_RECORDS/Attendance Register.xlsx
Multiple-choice theory assessment, to record understanding if your business wants to	05_ASSESSMENT/Theory Assessment.docx and .pdf
Answer key for the assessment	05_ASSESSMENT/Assessment Answer Key.docx and .pdf
Certificate template	06_RECORDS/Certificate Template.docx
Start here: Read Me First, Product Overview, Permitted Use Terms, Version Information	01_START_HERE/ (four PDFs)

What you need to deliver it

- A facilitator such as a supervisor, leading hand or WHS adviser who has read the facilitator guide and knows your site's arrangements for the topic
- A screen or projector, or printed slides or handouts: it works in a crib room, site office or on a video call
- Your own site procedures for the topic, to point to during the session

Questions

Does it say which gloves to buy or how long to rinse a burn? No, on purpose. The talk names no glove materials, products or times: gloves are chosen from the product's SDS and the glove maker's information, and first aid follows the SDS, your first aid procedure and the first aider's training. The guide tells the facilitator what to check.

Can we add our own site procedures and photos? Yes. The slides, handout and guide are editable, and the facilitator guide marks the places to add your own procedures, contacts and photos of your workplace.

Do we have to use the assessment? No. It is there if your business wants a record that each worker understood the key points. The attendance record on its own shows who attended and when.

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TOOLBOX TALK

Skin Health: Wet Work, Irritants and Wet Cement Awareness

Look after the skin you work with: dermatitis, wet work, irritants and wet cement

20–30 minutes · Workers and supervisors whose hands are often wet or in contact with cement, cleaning products, solvents, oils or other irritants

[Company name] · [Date] · [Facilitator name]

SKN

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What this talk is, and is not

This talk covers

- ✓ Dermatitis, wet work and irritants
- ✓ Wet cement burns
- ✓ Gloves and skin care
- ✓ Reporting early

This talk is not

- ✕ Medical advice or a skin check
- ✕ Full hazardous chemicals training
- ✕ Sun damage to skin
- ✕ Our procedure: **[Our chemical and PPE procedure]**

Awareness only. Anyone with a skin problem sees a doctor. Check the SDS for each product.

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What dermatitis is, and what causes it

Red, itchy, dry, cracked or blistered skin, mostly on the hands.

- Wet work: hands wet often, or in gloves for long periods
- Irritants: detergents, soaps, solvents, oils and coolants
- Allergies: cement, resins, hair dyes, some glove materials
- Friction, heat and cold make it worse
- Once allergic, you usually stay allergic

A composite example

- A kitchen hand washes dishes by hand all shift. Her hands crack and bleed.
- She hides it for months. By the time she reports it, it takes a long time to settle.

Skin damage adds up. Catch it early.

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Duties under health and safety laws

The business must

- Identify wet work, irritants and allergens
- Reduce skin contact, starting at the top
- Keep SDSs and provide the right PPE
- Provide washing facilities and training

You must

- Use the tools, methods and PPE
- Follow the SDS and procedures
- Look after your skin
- Report skin problems early

Most health and safety laws give these duties. Check the law where you work (in Australia, WHS or OHS laws).

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The order of controls for skin

1. **Elimination** Do the task a way that needs no skin contact
2. **Substitution** A milder product, or one less likely to cause allergy
3. **Isolation** Enclosed mixing, dispensers, dishwashers
4. **Engineering** Long-handled tools, automatic dosing
5. **Administrative** Rotate wet work, SDS, training, skin checks
6. **PPE** Gloves chosen from the SDS, sleeves, boots

HIGHER ORDER

Higher order controls remove or control the hazard at the source, or put a barrier between people and the hazard.

LOWER ORDER

Lower order controls rely on people to do a thing or wear a thing, every time, tired, distracted or rushed.

Behaviours are not on the hierarchy, but behaviours and culture decide whether every control on it actually works.

Keep it off your skin first. Gloves come last.

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TOOLBOX TALK · HAZ-SKN

Skin Health: Wet Work, Irritants and Wet Cement Awareness

Participant handout · keep this

Wet work, irritants and wet cement can damage your skin. Keep products off it, and report problems early. Keep this page.

The order of controls

1. A way of working with no skin contact
2. A milder or less allergy-causing product
3. Enclosed mixing, dispensers, dishwashers
4. Long-handled tools, automatic dosing
5. Rotate wet work, SDS, training, skin checks
6. Gloves from the SDS, sleeves, boots

Cement or chemicals on you

- ■ Wash off straight away with clean water
- ■ Eyes: rinse and get first aid

Never

- ■ Wait for cement to hurt
- ■ Hide a rash

Every day

- ☐ Will my skin meet water, cement or chemicals today?
- ☐ Can I use a tool or method that keeps it off my skin?
- ☐ Are my gloves right for this product, clean and dry inside?
- ☐ Is clean water nearby to wash off cement or chemicals?
- ☐ Have I washed, dried and moisturised my hands?

Early signs

- ■ Dry, red, itchy, cracked or blistered skin
- ■ Report it and see a doctor

Who and where

- ■ **[Gloves and skin care supplies]**
- ■ **[Who to report to here]**

Keep it off your skin, look after your hands, and report a rash early.

This is awareness training. It is not a licence, a ticket, a permit or a competency. It is not medical advice or a skin check.

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