



Solvent Use

- ☛ Solvents are commonly used on the roof as a cleaning agent for tools and equipment, and for single-ply laps before they are glued.
 - Potential dangers are fires, vapor inhalation, skin irritation, and environmental hazards that may result from improper disposal.

- ☛ Most flammable solvents have very low flashpoints and release vapors easily.
 - Never smoke or have any open flame around solvents.
 - Store solvents in labeled safety cans. Safety cans are metal, and are equipped with spark arrestor screens and snug-fitting, spring-loaded lids.
 - If a solvent spills, clean up the mess immediately and dispose of the clean-up materials in a secure, fireproof container.
 - Do not allow vapors to collect in any space where there may be open flames or sparks, especially vapors that are heavier than air and will settle on the roof surface or other surface areas.

- ☛ Consult with your supervisor before using a solvent in a confined space.
 - If you do use a solvent in a confined space, make sure that there is adequate ventilation or that you use respiratory protection.

- ☛ Make sure to protect your skin from the effects of solvents.
 - Most solvents will destroy the natural oils on your skin causing it to become dry.
 - Protect your hands with rubber gloves.
 - Don't use solvents to clean your hands, or any other part of your body.

- ☛ Read the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) before using an unfamiliar solvent.
 - The MSDS will provide all relevant information about the chemical compound, including information such as:
 - the flash point, and its upper and lower explosion limits,
 - any health hazards,
 - required PPE,
 - clean-up methods and disposal requirements, and
 - potential results of exposure and first aid responses, among other things.

Solvent Use Training Tips

- Read parts of the MSDS for a common solvent.
- Show some of the respirators that employees may need to wear when working with solvents.
- Ask the following questions:
 - Why shouldn't you clean your hands with solvents?
 - Is it possible to inhale enough solvent vapor to make yourself ill, even when you're outside?