

Hazardous substances

Hazardous substances in retail include cleaning sprays, bleaches, solvents, aerosols, and pest products. Improper storage or use can cause burns, poisoning, or toxic gases.

Storage

- Keep substances in original labelled containers.
- Store in secure, ventilated areas away from food/customers.
- Separate incompatible substances as per safety data sheets (SDS).
- Use trays/secondary containment for liquids.

Do

- Label and store chemicals securely.
- Provide and train workers in PPE use.
- Keep SDS on site and updated.
- Provide spill kits and eyewash.
- Train workers in chemical safety, where necessary.

Use

- Keep SDS accessible and ensure workers know how to read them.
- Train workers in handling, dilution, and PPE use.
- Never decant into unlabelled containers.

Don't

- Mix incompatible substances.
- Store chemicals near food or customers.
- Use unlabelled containers.
- Ignore missing or damaged labels.
- Let untrained workers handle hazardous substances.

Emergency preparedness

- Provide spill kits and absorbents near storage areas.
- Ensure eyewash or clean water is accessible.
- Train workers in spill or exposure response.

Employee checklist

- All substances labelled and in original containers.
- Storage areas ventilated and secure.
- SDS accessible and current.
- Spill kits available nearby.
- Workers trained in chemical safety.