The Do's and Don'ts for the Safe Use of Solvents

Our poster “Do’s and Don’ts for the safe use of solvents” uses easy to understand icons allowing everyone at workplaces to immediately grasp the basic rules of the safe handling of solvents.

Available in English, German, Italian, and Spanish.

The Do's and Don’ts

1. **Safety Data Sheet**
   - Do read the label and safety data sheet.

2. **Eye Protection**
   - Do wear safety glasses or goggles as indicated.

3. **Ventilation**
   - Do ensure good ventilation and wear respiratory equipment when working in poorly ventilated areas.

4. **Skin Protection**
   - Do wear gloves and protective clothing. Avoid contact with any area of skin whenever possible.

5. **Disposal**
   - Do dispose of solvents properly in line with local regulation.

6. **Disposal**
   - Don’t pour solvents down the drain or onto soil.

7. **Eating or Drinking**
   - Don’t eat or drink while using solvents.

8. **Vapour**
   - Don’t leave containers open. Avoid inhaling vapours.

9. **Static Electricity**
   - Don’t forget to avoid static electricity through proper earthing.

10. **No Smoking or Ignition Source**
    - Don’t smoke when using solvents and avoid all ignition sources.

**Our Best Practices Guidelines**

- “Safe Use of Gloves for the Handling of Solvents” explains how to choose the right gloves by providing information on which glove material to use for which solvent and how to put on and remove gloves in order to avoid skin contact.

- Available in English, German, Italian, and Spanish.

- “10 tips for the safe use of gloves”.

- Available in English, German, Italian, and Spanish.

- “Strategies and Techniques for Measuring Solvent Vapour Concentrations in the Work Environment” focuses on a tiered approach when implementing a measurement strategy for verification of the level of exposure. It provides insight into the various measurement techniques available and when they may be applied to define solvent emission sources, personal exposure and the exposure control measures’ effectiveness.

- Our Best Practice Guidelines “Flammability: a safe guide for users – safe working with industrial solvents” explains the main issues linked to solvents’ flammability and static electricity. It provides recommendations to mitigate the associated risks.
**OVERVIEW «SOLVENTS@WORK»**

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<tr>
<th>FILMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Our film “Safe handling of solvents” enables users to identify health and environmental hazards and to implement best practices to ensure the safe handling of solvents.*</td>
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<td>Our film “Safe loading and transportation of bulk solvents by road” aims to support hauliers, drivers and site operators by identifying best practices in the transport of solvents and bulk transfer between vehicles and storage vessels.*</td>
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<td>Our film “Solvents and the safe use of gloves” shows how to select the appropriate gloves for a particular solvent, and how to use gloves for maximum protection.*</td>
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<td>Our film “Solvents and IBCs” contains valuable guidance on how to select Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC). It shows best practices for storage and handling and gives information about relevant legislation on the handling of hazardous solvents.*</td>
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| Our films “Solvents and static electricity” (part 1/part 2) show users and handlers of solvent-based materials how to identify potential sources of static electricity in the workplace and implement measures to avoid static discharges.* | Part 1 Available in 🇬🇧 🇫🇷 🇩🇪 🇮🇹 🇪🇸  
Part 2 Available in 🇬🇧 🇫🇷 🇩🇪 🇮🇹 🇪🇸 |
| Our films on the Reciprocal Calculation Procedure (RCP) explain what this method is used for and how to calculate the occupational exposure limits of hydrocarbon solvents.  
- Part 1: what hydrocarbon solvents and RCP are  
- Part 2: how to calculate an OEL based on RCP method | How to calculate an OEL based on the RCP? |

* In co-operation with SIA.