



# OH&S TIP SHEET

Health and Safety in Early Childhood Services

## Hazardous substances and dangerous goods

Hazardous substances are broadly described as any substance (or mixture) that has the potential, through being used at work, to harm human health. The health effects may be immediate or long-term. Hazardous substances may be solids, liquids, or gases, pure substances or mixtures. These often generate vapours, fumes, dust and mists.

### HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

In Victoria, OHS laws set out the various duties of care regarding the use and storage of hazardous substances.

Some hazardous substances may also be classified as dangerous goods. You will know if a chemical is either a hazardous substance, or a dangerous good, by reading the Material Safety Data Sheet or label.

### DANGEROUS GOODS

Dangerous goods are substances that are classified on the basis of immediate physical or chemical effects. They are divided into nine classes, as noted in the following table.

Dangerous goods are readily identifiable if they are in their original manufacturer or supplier containers as they will have a dangerous goods coloured diamond label with a class number clearly identifying which dangerous goods class they belong to.



Class no.	Type of substance
2	Gasses
2.1	Flammable
2.2	Non-flammable, non-toxic
2.3	Toxic
3	Flammable liquids
4	Flammable solids
4.1	Self-reactive substances
4.2	Liable to spontaneous combustion
4.3	Emit flammable gasses when wet
5	Oxidising substances
5.1	Oxidising agents
5.2	Organic peroxides
6	Toxic and infectious substances
6.1	Toxic substances
6.2	Infectious substances
7	Radioactive substances
8	Corrosives substances
9	Miscellaneous dangerous goods and articles



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