

Epoxies Can Be Handled Safely

Even though epoxy systems can be hazardous, you can protect yourself just by using simple precautions. Everyone handling epoxies must be properly trained to work safely. Workers should handle epoxy resins and hardeners like any other chemical product, with care. Epoxy chemicals can cause eye and skin irritation, and they are sensitizers. Some people may develop a skin sensitivity similar to poison ivy after repeated contact with epoxy compounds. When used in sprays, epoxy compounds can be irritating to the eyes and irritating to the lungs if inhaled. Mixing epoxy chemicals may generate heat, and with certain systems, can even cause smoke.

When Handling Epoxies, Do

- * Make sure you have received complete training.
- * Refer to MSDS's for all your products and review all safe handling information.
- * Select and wear the proper glove for your operation. Not all gloves provide adequate protection.
- * Wear clean protective clothing, covering all exposed skin.
- * Use protective skin creams only as supplements to, not replacements for, gloves.
- * Be sure there is adequate fresh air ventilation, especially when working in confined areas.
- * Practice good housekeeping and personal cleanliness at all times.
- * Do not allow contaminated clothing to remain in contact with your skin.
- * Change contaminated clothing right away.
- * Keep tools and clothes clean. Do not wear or reuse contaminated articles.
- * Follow proper procedures to dispose of empty drums and containers. Do Not reuse.

* Read container labels for special instructions.

If Spraying Epoxies, Do

* Use full-face, air-supplied respirators when spraying.

* Wear air-supplied chemical suits when spraying in confined areas or where mists could be present.

* Keep tools and clothes clean. Do not wear or reuse contaminated articles.

After Handling Epoxies, Do

* Wash thoroughly before eating, smoking, using the toilet, or taking a break and after work. Keep your hands and skin clean.

* Remove protective equipment carefully to avoid contact with your skin.

* Should any material come in contact with your skin, wash with soap and water.

* Change to clean clothing immediately if epoxies spill on your clothing. Launder contaminated clothing before reuse.

* Watch out for contamination inside work gloves and on tools. Clean tools before reuse.