





29. Hazardous Materials

Definition:

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are not only an industrial problem. Many hazardous materials are found in our own homes.

Hazardous materials are defined and federally regulated under the Hazardous Products Act administered by Consumer & Corporate Affairs. Health & Welfare Canada plays an advisory role. These products are classified in four hazard categories:

-  Corrosive (such as acids)
-  Flammable (burns easily)
-  Reactive (explosive or produces deadly vapours)
-  Toxic (poisonous to humans).

The degree of hazard to human health and safety is assessed and classified into three hazard classes: dangerous, warning and caution needed.



Policy:

- (a) Any materials or substances which are considered hazardous will be stored in a safe place in the residence or program site at all times.
- (b) Spectrum personnel will carefully read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of any hazardous materials, and will take necessary safety precautions such as wearing gloves or masks, opening doors and windows for ventilation, etc.
- (c) Individuals receiving service will be supervised when using materials or substances which are considered hazardous.
- (d) Any materials or substances which are considered hazardous will be stored in their original containers or clearly marked as hazardous.

- (e) Any materials or substances which are considered hazardous will be stored separately from food.
- (f) Wherever possible, non-toxic or less toxic alternatives to hazardous materials will be used.
- (g) Hazardous materials will be properly disposed of, according to local municipal guidelines. The following materials may require special disposal at municipal hazardous waste depots:
 - (i) Paints, varnishes, stains, paint thinner/stripper, turpentine, solvents
 - (ii) Car batteries, transmission fluid, anti-freeze
 - (iii) Pesticides
 - (iv) Aerosol containers – eg. oven cleaner

Emergency procedures:

- (a) For a hazardous materials incident involving poisoning or a suspected poisoning, call 911 for immediate medical assistance, or the poison control centre for information or advice: 604-682-5050 or 1-800-567-8911.
- (b) For any escape, leakage or exposure to hazardous materials that may endanger the safety of others or of the facility, the person in charge will initiate the evacuation procedure as outlined in Policy #44. Call the police (911) and report the incident, being as specific as possible about the nature of the material involved and the exact location.