

Table 1: Substances that may cause occupational Dermatitis (not exhaustive)

Exposure (i.e. physical contact) with any of the following substances may cause dermatitis, in some cases skin may become sensitive to certain substances over time meaning that exposure to even a small amount may cause a serious reaction. Note that while this list gives a good indication of the types of substance that may cause occupational dermatitis it is not exhaustive.

- Epoxy resins
- Latex (including the use of latex gloves)
- Rubber chemicals
- Soaps, detergents and cleaning chemicals
- Metalworking Fluids
- Cement
- Enzymes
- Wood and wood dusts
- All substances classified as skin irritant or corrosive
- All substances classified as skin sensitisers*
- Solvents (especially degreasers) may lead to an increased risk of dermatitis
- Wet working**
- Prolonged use of protective gloves (including vinyl and nitrile gloves)

* Usually noted on safety data sheet or by “Sk” notification in EH40

** Prolonged or frequent skin contact with water (more than 20 hand washes or 2 hours of contact)

Table 2: Substances that may cause occupational Asthma (not exhaustive)

Exposure (i.e. inhalation) with any of the following substances can lead to the development of occupational asthma. In some cases regular exposure to a substance may lead to sensitisation meaning that even a small exposure can trigger adverse health effects. Note that while this list gives a good indication of the types of substance that may cause occupational asthma it is not exhaustive.

- Isocyanate compounds (including two-pack spray paints)
- Flour dust
- Grain dust
- Wood dust
- Glutaraldehyde
- Latex (including powdered natural rubber latex)
- Rosin-cored solder fume
- Laboratory animals (including insects and birds) and associated equipment / products e.g. animal feed, clean and soiled bedding, insect scales etc.)
- Glues and resins
- All substances classified as respiratory sensitisers*

* Usually noted on safety data sheet or by “Sen” notification in EH40. A useful list of respiratory sensitisers can also be found in the HSE publication “Asthmagens”.