CDC Effects of Skin Contact with Chemicals



Information on the impact of chemical exposure on skin as well as adverse effects and ways to recognize hazards and manage and reduce risk.

Impact of Chemical Exposure on Skin

Chemical exposures to the skin can cause temporary or permanent health damage.

Temporary Damage

Temporary skin damage may occur from exposure to chemicals. For example, many workers may experience dry, red, cracked skin from contact with water, soaps, gasoline, and certain types of solvents. These health problems usually heal quickly when the skin is no longer in contact with the substance.

Permanent Damage

Permanent skin damage may result if the skin is exposed to a chemical that is known to have a severe impact. For example, a chemical burn, as shown, may leave a permanent scar. Exposure to certain chemicals can result in…