

Evenley Village Hall

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) Risk Assessment.

The law requires a business with five or more employees, which uses substances that might cause harm to health, to control the risk to its employees. Evenley Village Hall has no employees and therefore there is no obligation to record a formal risk assessment but village hall trustees consider it good practice to assess any potential risks to visitors who may use the hall. The following paragraphs set out the arrangements Evenley Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC) have taken to identify the risks and list any actions they have taken to control risks to health.

The risk assessment will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is kept up to date and takes into account any changes in the village hall.

Identification of the hazards

The substances used in the village hall are cleaning products, which in general are provided by and used by the contracted cleaner. These chemicals are kept in the possession of the contracted cleaner and none are left on the premises. The contracted cleaner, as a self-employed worker, is responsible for her own COSHH risk assessment for the chemicals she uses.

Some domestic cleaning products are provided by the village hall for use of visitors, these are

- Washing Up Liquid
- Liquid Soap
- Dishwasher Tablets
- Rinse Aid
- Dishwasher Salt

The village hall management committee sources domestic cleaning products from retail outlets according to availability and price. It is therefore impractical to gather COSHH risk assessments for each and every product, so generic information is provided

It is reasonable to state that domestic cleaning products made available in the village hall should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the purpose they were sold and in doing so they will be safe and not hazardous to health.

Much of the precautions to be taken when using domestic cleaning products fall under the heading of common sense. That said, harm may occur if the products come in contact with

an open wound, get splashed in the eye, get ingested, if the user suffers some sort of allergic reaction or if the products are misused. In general, if any of the above is experienced, the following specific action should be taken.

Contact with an open wound: Affected area should be washed with water as soon as possible.

Splashes into the eyes or transfer to the eye from fingers: The eyes should be irrigated with water as soon as possible.

Cleaning products ingested: The individual should drink copious volumes of water as soon as possible.

In all cases of affects from accidents or misuse, urgent medical attention should be sought.

In all cases, if substances are used in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction which will be listed on the bottle or container, risks are minimal. All the substances are commonly used in domestic settings and will therefore be familiar to anyone using them in the village hall.

COVID Anti Viral Mist Spray

During the COVID outbreak, the village hall had restricted access between January 2020 and July 2021. When restrictions were eased, the village hall management committee purchased a Mirius anti-viral disinfectant mist spaying device which was used once per week to protect hall users from contaminated surfaces. This device is no longer being used but a supply of Mirius VI Disinfectant is kept in the storage barn in case of future need.

Mirius VI Disinfectant is considered to be harmless if used as directed. A full COSHH data sheet is attached.

Generic Product COSHH Data

Liquid Hand Soap

This is a commonly used domestic product for hand washing. Used in the correct way it should present no risk to the user. Hand soap frequently include the following chemical components in its manufacture. Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES) Cocamidopropyl betaine (CAPB) Sodium hydroxide and Glycerine. These chemicals would only present a risk of harm if handles in bulk such as the manufacturing process, but information is provided on each common constituent chemical for the sake of completeness.

Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES) is a chemical which enhances spreading and wetting properties and detergent that's used in many cosmetics and household products such as shampoo, shower gels, laundry detergents and Toothpastes. In an unadulterated state SLES

can irritate the skin and eyes. Prolonged contact with concentrated SLES may cause irritation. People with very sensitive skin and are prone to rashes or have a skin condition such as psoriasis should avoid products with SLES's.

Cocamidopropyl betaine (CAPB) is another chemical which enhances spreading and wetting properties. CAPB derives from natural chemicals found in coconut oil

Sodium hydroxide is an alkaline used to make most soaps. In its purest unadulterated form it can be corrosive and toxic, however, it is neutralised during the soap making process..

Glycerine is a simple colorless, odorless, viscous liquid that is sweet-tasting and non-toxic.

Washing Up Liquid

Washing Up Liquid typically contains Sodium DodecylBenzenesulfonate; Alcohol , Alcohol Ethoxylated Sulfates (AES)and sodium salts

Sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate is used as a synthetic detergent and in its unadulterated form can cause minor skin and eye irritation. Ingesting it may cause vomiting, diarrhea, and in extreme cases intestinal distension.

Alcohol is used in the manufacturing process of washing up liquid as a binding agent, to reduce bubbles and reduce the level of soda ash (washing soda). It is harmless unless consumed in vast quantities.

Alcohol EthoxySulfates (AES) is a chemical which enhances the spreading and wetting properties washing up liquid and is used in many household products such as laundry detergents, Hard surface cleaners, toothpaste and shampoos. In its unadulterated form it could be an irritant to the eyes and respiratory tract.

Used properly, washing up liquid is safe to use.

Dishwasher Salt

Dishwasher salt is made of sodium chloride, the same chemical that makes up table salt and sea salt. However, dishwasher salt is made into larger granules to prevent clogging. Salt in the eyes can cause irritation Digesting too much salt can raise your blood pressure and increase your risk of heart disease and stroke.

Used properly, dish washer salt is safe to use.

Dishwasher Tablets

Dishwasher tablets often contain sodium carbonate, sodium hypochlorite, sodium metasilicate, and enzymes. They may also contain fragrances,

Sodium carbonate, commonly known as washing soda, is generally harmless to humans but if used in high concentrations or if swallowed in large amounts could cause harm. Excessive exposure to the skin or splashes in the eye can cause burning, pain, skin rash and potentially vision loss. Swallowing Sodium Carbonate: can cause nausea, vomiting, stomach ache, diarrhea and burns to the mouth and throat.

Sodium Hypochlorite is better known as bleach and is used in small quantities in dishwasher tablets. If mis used, it can be harmful to humans. Splashes on the skin can cause burning pain, redness, swelling, and blisters. Splashes in the eyes can cause irritation or pain and more serious eye conditions if left untreated. Ingesting dishwasher tablets which contain Sodium Hypochlorite can cause Gastrointestinal complications.

Sodium metasilicate is a sodium compound i.e. another salt. When mixed with water, sodium metasilicate makes a highly effective cleaner and is used in a variety of household settings. In its unadulterated state, used in large quantities it is highly corrosive and should be handled with care, which is why many dishwasher tablets are encapsulated to avoid contact with eyes or skin.

Used properly, dishwasher tablets are safe to use but they should be kept out of the reach of children.

Rinse Aid

Rinse aid is commonly a blend of surfactants, alcohol, and water. Surfactants (surface-active agents) are commonly alcohol and mild citric acids, which allows the water to spread more evenly over dishes and glassware. Alcohol acts as a drying agent and evaporates quickly.

Rinse aid is safe for use but it should be kept out of reach of children and pets, avoid contact with eyes and skin and do not ingest.