



SAFETY ADVICE DESIGNED TO KEEP YOUR STAFF SAFE AND YOUR BUSINESS COMPLIANT



## Highly Flammable Liquids

Highly Flammable Liquids (HFL's), including petroleum based adhesives, are used extensively throughout the construction industry and carry with them the risk of fire, serious accidents and injury.

### Main points:

- Always look for the hazard symbol and wording on containers.
- Only ever have the minimum quantities at the place of work. Keep the remainder in suitable stores.
- Always keep the lid on containers when not in immediate use, and store correctly.

### Discussion points:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep away from open flames and sources of heat (HFL's ignite at relatively low temperatures).
- Do not smoke in areas where HFL's are used or stored, and do not use equipment which generates heat and/or sparks (including electrical sparks).
- HFL vapours are generally heavier than air and will accumulate at ground level if they cannot disperse. Beware of drains, excavations, pits, etc, both when using and storing HFL's.
- HFL vapours can also be toxic, make you drowsy, etc. Only use in well ventilated areas, or, if this is not possible, respiratory protective equipment may have to be worn.
- HFL storage should comprise containers made of non-flammable material (don't forget the vapour hazards – ensure there is ventilation).

- Clear up any spillage immediately and safely dispose of contaminated cleaning materials. If inside a building, consider assisting vapour dispersal by opening windows, doors, etc.
- Consider covering drains to protect against entry by substance or its vapour where necessary and practicable



**Talk to Atlas about Safety Management for your business**

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