



You're Worth!t WSCC

# HAIR STYLISTS TOOLBOX TALK

## WHMIS

Many chemicals used in hair salons can cause conditions from minor skin irritation to serious injury and disease. These chemicals might be common products that you find even in homes, like bleach and bathroom cleaner. Or, they might be found only in your work place, like hair dye and antiseptic cleaner for your tools.

Employers are required to inform their staff of hazardous materials in the workplace, and train the workers in their safe use.

All NT and NU workplaces that use materials identified as hazardous ("controlled products") by the **Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)** are required to follow the WHMIS system. WHMIS uses clear and consistent labels to help people recognize hazardous materials. It also provides specific information on handling, storing and disposing of these materials.



## SAFETY TIPS

If you have been successfully trained in how to handle hazardous materials, you should be able to answer these 4 questions:

1. What are the hazards of the product you are using?
2. How do you protect yourself?
3. What should you do in case of an emergency or spill?
4. Where can you get more information on the product?
  - Read the labels and the **SDSs** that accompany chemicals.
  - Use non-toxic non-flammable products when possible, and ask your employer to consider replacing toxic and flammable products with safer substitutes.
  - When handling hazardous materials:
    - Use the chemical only as directed.
    - Follow safe work procedures.
  - Use personal protective equipment (for example, clothing, rubber gloves, goggles and/or face shields) as recommended by the manufacturers and as required by your employer.
  - Be sure you are working in an adequately ventilated area with approved fire protection.
  - Do not do "hot work" where flammable chemicals are in use or stored.
  - Check that first aid is available.
  - Store chemicals in a properly ventilated, locked area and post warning signs.
  - If you do not understand WHMIS labeling and markings, ASK your supervisor for training.

## EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS

- Hair dyes
- Permanent wave solutions
- Cleaning agents



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