

# LESSONS LEARNT

## Cement Burns on Hands

### Incident Overview

A worker was grouting and using Megapoxy in stormwater pits. The worker had been performing this task for 3-4 hours, when he started to feel a burning sensation on his hands. The worker noticed blisters on his finger and wrist. The worker was wearing latex gloves with cut 5 rated gloves over the top. Grout managed to enter the gloves the worker was wearing causing the burns.



Cement has a high pH which makes it corrosive. Because of this it can burn the skin, eyes, mouth and lungs. Products that contain cement (such as concrete and grout) can also cause skin irritation. With continuous contact, it can burn the skin and can cause allergic reactions. Such contact can lead to stinging pain, itching, blisters, scabs, dead skin and swelling. Cement is particularly hazardous when it is wet.

### Contributing Factors








- The SDS for the grout being used had not been reviewed to determine the type of gloves needed to be worn to complete the task safely.
- Impermeable gloves that prevent grout contacting the hands during mixing and application were not worn.

### Preventive Actions

- Review the SDS for the grout.
- Source suitable gloves for the grouting task.
- Supervisors are to ensure workers are aware of the risk of chemical burns from wet grout and that gloves are provided and worn.
- Pull sleeves down over gloves, tuck pants inside boots, use duct tape at the top of boots to keep cement out.
- Remove jewellery such as rings and watches because wet cement can collect under them.
- If contact with the skin occurs, wash cement off skin with clean water.

### Key Learnings

The importance of reviewing SDS for chemical use to ensure the correct controls are in place to ensure workers are safe while using chemicals.

Wearing gloves is <b>mandatory</b> for <b>all</b> manual activities		General Maintenance	Fine Maintenance	Live or possibly live critical work	Grinding	Welding	Oxy Cutting	Scaffolding	Rigging & Drilling	Sharp Edged Materials	Using Razor Knife	Steel Fixing	First Aid	Abrasive	Abrasive Blasting	General Wood Work	Concreting	Sewer Handling
	MaxiFlex Cut 3	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		✓				
	MecDex Auto 51	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
	Riggers	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				
	Electrical insulating			✓														
	Chemical specific																✓	✓
	Welding					✓	✓								✓			
	Latex											✓						