

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 567: Plumbing Glues

Introduction: There are several types of plumbing glues that are widely used in construction and industry. Different types of pipe such as ABS, PVC, or CPVC will require specific types of glue that can be hazardous. Following are safety guidelines for handling and using plumbing glues:

Hazardous properties: Plumbing glues are toxic and highly flammable liquids that evaporate very rapidly and can release excessive amounts of fumes when exposed to the atmosphere. Plumbing glues have a very low flashpoint. Even at a low temperature, they will ignite very easily. A spark can ignite plumbing glue in open air settings where the dissipation rate of fumes is higher than in an enclosed space.

Application hazards: Pipe cleaning and priming solutions are toxic and highly flammable. Plumbing glue, cleaning, and priming solutions applied onto parts in hot or warm weather will release substantially more fumes. Using plumbing glues, cleaning, or priming solutions indoors or in enclosed spaces will cause excessive amounts of fumes to build up in those areas.

- **Always** use caution when using, handling, or dispensing plumbing glues and related chemicals.
- **Make sure** you wear safety glasses, goggles or a full-face shield, safety gloves, long pants, and a long shirt that will protect your arms. Wear a respirator when vapors and fumes are exposed to your nose and mouth. Safety shoes that do not absorb spillage are required.
- **Material safety data sheets** (MSDS) must be available to all workers and personnel.
- **Always** read the MSDS and take the appropriate cautionary measures.
- **Avoid** getting plumbing glues and other related chemicals on or into your body.
- **Wash** thoroughly after handling plumbing glues and other related chemicals.
- **Do not** eat, drink, or smoke while handling plumbing glues and related chemicals. Post no smoking signs at storage areas.
- **Avoid** breathing vapors or mists generated by PVC glues and related chemicals.
- **All** workers who handle PVC glues and related chemicals must be trained to handle them safely. Containers of these chemicals must be properly labeled. When these chemicals are used in other types of containers, only use portable containers approved for flammable liquids.
- **Always** use non-sparking tools when working with glues and chemicals.
- **Keep** containers tightly closed when not in use. Empty containers may contain residual flammable liquid or vapors. Empty containers must be handled with care. Do not expose containers to welding arcs, torches or any other sources of ignition.
- **Make sure** proper ventilation controls are utilized when using plumbing glues, cleaning solutions, and primers during indoor or enclosed space application. Explosion proof or local exhaust systems may be needed to ensure that exposure to toxic and flammable vapors is minimized. Ensure that respiratory protection is available at the job site.
- **Make sure** plumbing glues are stored in a cool dry place. Do not store glues in direct sunlight, or other sources of intense heat.
- **Make sure** containers of plumbing glue and related chemicals are stored away from incompatible chemicals that include caustic soda, organic acids, and oxidizing agents. Avoid storing in places where freezing is possible.
- **Storage facilities** where large volumes of plumbing glues and chemicals are dispensed and handled may require the continued use of respiratory protection when adequate ventilation of the facility is not available.
- **Make sure** that when a chemical spill occurs, respiratory protection is on site for clean-up operations.
- **Always** avoid overexposure to these chemicals. Symptoms of overexposure can include coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath.
- **Emergency** eye-wash stations must be available for workers and personnel in areas where there is any possibility of chemical exposure to the eyes. Hold the eyes open while flushing with an adequate amount of gently flowing water until the eyes have been completely flushed out. When irritation of the eyes persists, seek medical attention.
- **An emergency** shower station must be available to all employees and personnel in areas where large volumes of plumbing glues and related chemicals are stored, handled, and dispensed. Remove contaminated clothing immediately and place them in an approved metal container that can be sealed until they have been properly cleaned or disposed of.
- **Place** contaminated clothing, rags, or empty chemical containers in sealed metal containers. Dispose of at an approved disposal site.



Conclusion: Using plumbing glues and related chemicals on the job is safe when caution and the proper safety measures are used. Always utilize these safety guidelines when handling and using plumbing glues and related chemicals.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.