

## Publications

### OHS Hazards

#### Hierarchy of hazard controls

Hazards must be controlled using a range of methods. This page lists various strategies, in order of preference, which should be considered in hazard control.

The hierarchy of hazard controls is a list which emphasises controlling a hazard at the source. This is done by giving preference to the use of the 'engineering controls' outlined in strategies 1 to 5. These types of strategies should be used, where possible, because they are less subject to human failure and because they are less disruptive and uncomfortable for people working in the area. Whichever methods you use, remember that in each case their effectiveness should be monitored regularly.

#### Engineering Controls

1. **DESIGN.** Try to ensure that hazards are 'designed out' when new materials, equipment and work systems are being planned for the workplace.
2. **REMOVE** the hazard or **SUBSTITUTE** less hazardous materials, equipment or substances.
3. **ADOPT A SAFER PROCESS.** Alterations to tools, equipment or work systems can often make them much safer.
4. **ENCLOSE OR ISOLATE THE HAZARD** through the use of guards or remote handling techniques.
5. **PROVIDE EFFECTIVE VENTILATION** through local or general exhaust ventilation systems.
6. **ESTABLISH** appropriate **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES** such as:
  - ▶ job rotation to reduce exposure or boredom, or timing the job so that fewer workers are exposed
  - ▶ routine maintenance and housekeeping procedures
  - ▶ training on hazards and correct work procedures.

#### Personal Protective Equipment

**PROVIDE** suitable and properly maintained **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** (PPE) and training in its use.

For more on Personal Protective Equipment, see the [High Visibility Clothing Guide](#).

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