

Did You Know?

By law your employer should:

- Provide a safe and healthy workplace
- Provide training for the job
- Encourage you to report hazards
- Provide the right protection such as gloves
- Inform you about workers' compensation

The law requires that you must:

- Follow safety rules and attend safety training
- Report unsafe work practices
- Report any skin problems or other injuries as soon as possible
- Wear protective clothing which is provided
- Keep work areas clean and tidy

Australian Capital Territory
www.workcover.act.gov.au

South Australia
www.workcover.com

New South Wales
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Tasmania
www.workcover.tas.gov.au

Northern Territory
www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

Victoria
www.workcover.vic.gov.au

OASCC
www.detailstocome.com.au

Western Australia
www.workcover.wa.gov.au

Queensland
www.workcover.qld.gov.au

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Construction

Some HANDY advice for the future Construction worker...



Construction workers include:

- Builders
- Carpenters
- Floor layers
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Concreters
- Painters
- Cabinet makers
- Brick layers
- Plasterers
- Roof, wall and floor tilers

What is dermatitis?

Work-related dermatitis is a skin condition caused by things that people touch at work. The hands are most commonly affected.

Dermatitis affecting construction workers:

- Irritant contact dermatitis- caused by things that dry out and damage the skin. These include solvents and thinners, dust and dirt and strong hand soaps.

- Allergic contact dermatitis- occurs when someone becomes allergic to something they contacted at work. Allergic dermatitis shows up hours or days after contact.

Common causes are cement, epoxy resins and glues.



Prevent skin problems at work

- Avoid using solvents such as thinners or strong hand cleaners with sand in them to remove oil and grease



- Using a moisturiser or barrier cream before work makes cleaning hands easier at the end of the day
- Apply moisturising cream. Do this at the end of work and before bed. Sorbolene cream is best
- Wear the right gloves for the job - ask your boss
- To help stop sweating in gloves, wear cotton gloves underneath

Remember
...You are
at high
risk of
dermatitis,
if you have
a history of
eczema,
asthma or
hay fever,
even if you
haven't had
it since you
were a
baby.

Case Study

Tim - Construction Worker

Tim was 17 years-old and had been working as a bricklayer for 1 year. Tim found that his hands became very dry and rough after mixing cement. Soon he noticed they were itchy and weeping.

He spoke to his boss, who ordered some strong gloves for bricklaying. He began wearing the gloves, which helped a bit.

Tim finally decided to go to the doctor.

After special testing it was found that Tim was allergic to cement.

Unfortunately, Tim's hands took a long time to heal. He could not avoid the cement at work, so he had to give up work as a bricklayer.

Points to learn from this Tim's case

- Tim's boss should have given him the right sort of gloves as soon as he started working, instead of waiting until he had a skin problem
- Tim should have used moisturiser after work. His hands may not have become so dry and cracked. Then he may not have become allergic to the cement.
- He should have spoken to his boss as soon as he had problems with his hands.

Stop
this from
happening
to you