

Construction Hazards: Other Chemicals

	Source	Health Effects	Controls for Other Chemicals
Epoxy Resins	Impermeable paints, primer on hardwood floors, surface coat paint and adhesives for concrete wall.	Short Term: Eyes, nose, and throat irritation Long Term: Asthma	<p>Epoxy Resins & Polyurethanes: When possible, use one-component products where chemicals are already polymerized. When spraying, use correct air-supplied full face respirator (see MSDS). Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear safety goggles and gloves. Get proper training. Fire and explosion hazard. Never smoke or use an open flame around these operations. DANGER: If you smell it, get out!</p> <p>Coal Tar Pitch: Where possible, substitute less harmful materials such as coal tar enamel. Keep melt temperatures as low as possible. Install devices to reduce exposure when loading. Keep kettle covers in good shape and closed whenever possible. Wet down old pitch roofs before and during tear-offs. If dust is high, wear respirators. Wear eye protection. Protect the skin even in hot weather. Launder work clothes often. Wash up before eating, smoking, drinking and going home. If soap and water is not available, use waterless cleaner, NOT gasoline.</p>
Polyurethanes (Isocyanates)	Seam sealers, polyurethane insulation, electrical wire coatings.	Short Term: Irritation to eyes, nose, and throat. Long Term: May cause cancer. Asthma, other allergic lung diseases. If workers get sensitized to these chemicals, they will become seriously ill at the slightest exposure.	
Coal Tar Pitch	Roofings, road work.	Short Term: Irritation of eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Burns, skin irritation; increased sensitivity to sunlight. Long Term: Cancer of the lungs, skin and other sites.	