

Hazard and Risk

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Hazard- anything that causes harm such as a substance or activity.
Risk- the chance that an activity or substance will cause harm.

Hazardous chemicals: especially organic chemicals

Flammable- e.g. ethanol and methane
kept away from ignition sources

Irritant- e.g. propan-1-ol, pentane
can irritate the skin and cause blisters

Toxic- e.g. methanol, chloroethene
can kill if swallowed or inhaled

Explosive- highly flammable gases causing explosions if released in air

Harmful- e.g. butan-1-ol, 1-chloropropane

Dangerous to the environment- e.g. hexane

Risk assessment

- Looks at all the hazards of all the products, reactants and procedures involved in an experiment
- Considers how to minimise the risks

Risks can be reduced by:

- Working on small scale
- Taking appropriate precautions- e.g. eye protection, gloves, fume cupboard etc.
- Using different, safer or lower concentrations if possible

1. Identify hazards associated with the chemicals and procedures involved
2. Quantify risks- e.g. amount of substance to be used, where the procedure will be done and the experience of people involved
3. Identify who is at risk
4. Stating controls used to minimise risk- e.g. fume cupboard
5. Making a decision as to whether the risk is at an acceptable level for the activity to proceed

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