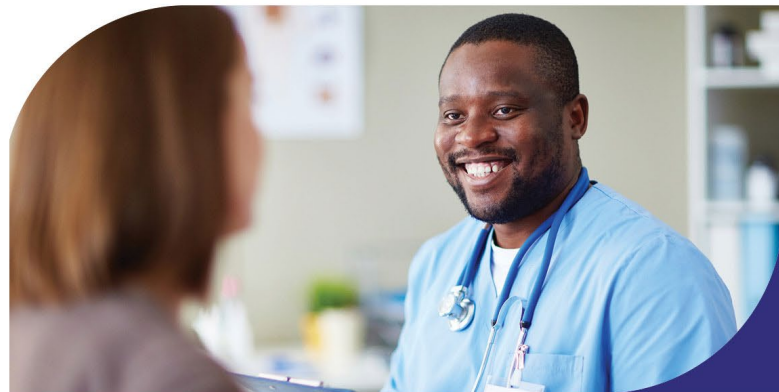




An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

# Preventing common workplace injuries in Small Businesses - Chemicals



Siobhan Ryan  
May 2026

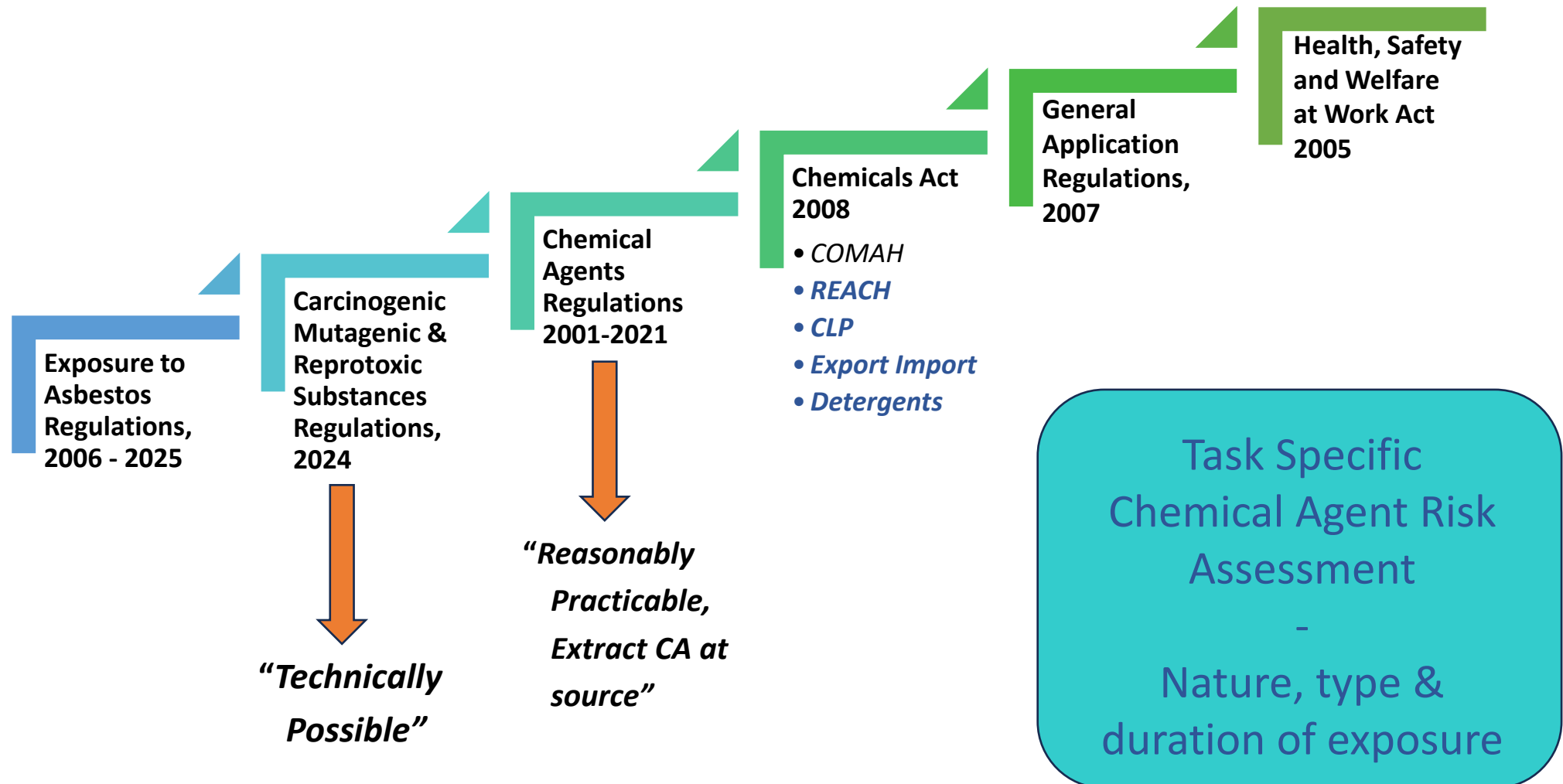




# Hazardous Chemicals in small businesses



# OH relevant Legislation:

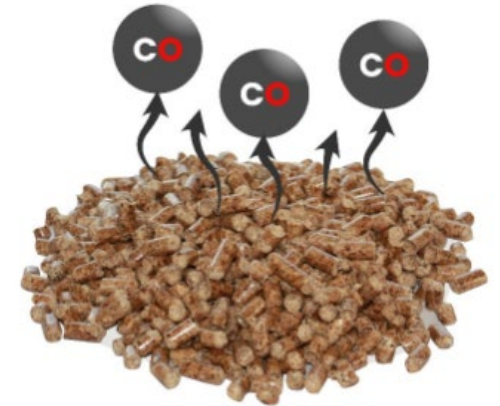


# Definition of Chemical Agent:

Any chemical substance or mixture used or produced including those generated as waste.



Swimming Pool chemicals



# What Chemicals do you use/generate in your business?



You need to know – **Make a list**  
**(Chemical Inventory)**





# All Chemical Substances must be labelled



# Safety Data Sheets

**SAFETY DATA SHEET**  
**Cleanit**      Date of Issue: June 2010

**1. Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking**

Identification of the substance/mixture:  
 Product identifier: ABC XYZ chemical  
 Trade Name: Industrial Cleaner      Synonyms: Cleanit  
**Relevant identified uses of the substance/mixture/Uses advised**  
 Company identified uses:  
 Company name: Acme Cleaning Ltd., 1 Acme Lane, Ind. Estate, Dublin 123  
 Telephone number: 01 234 5678  
 E-mail of responsible person for SDS: tom.acme@acme-cleaning.com  
**Emergency telephone**  
 Emergency telephone number: 01 123 4567 (9am – 5pm)

**2. Hazard Identification**

**Classification according to Directive 67/548/EEC:**  
 Xi: R36/38

**Classification according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008:**  
 Eye Irritant 2, H319  
 Skin Irritant 2, H315

**Label elements:**

Labelling: according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008:  
 Pictogram:       Signal Word: Warning

Signal Word: Warning  
 Hazard Statements:  
 H315 Causes skin irritation

Precautionary Statements: Precautionary Statements:  
 P201+202 Attention      P273 Do not release into the environment

**Primary route(s) of entry:** Inhalation: Yes; Skin - eyes: Yes; Ingestion: No

**Human health:**  
 Inhalation: Irritant, alkaline liquid.  
 Eyes: Eye contact may cause irritation.  
 Skin: May cause irritation.

**Environment:** No data available

**Hazards:** There are no known other hazards

**3. Composition/Information on Ingredients**

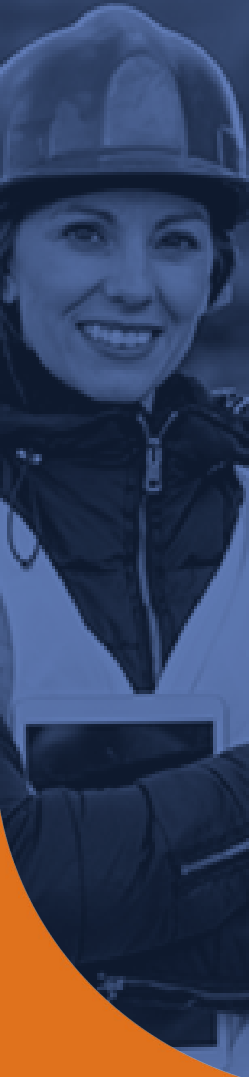
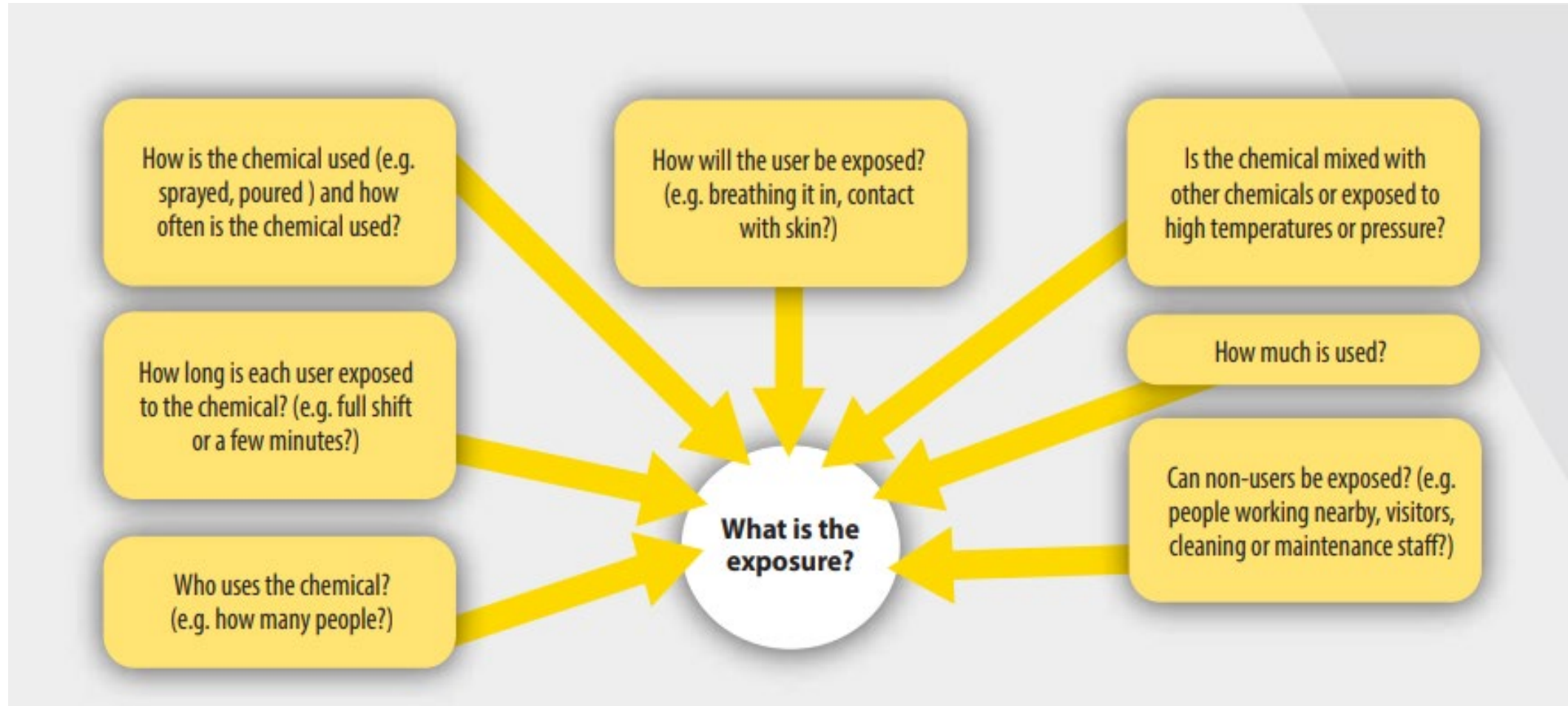
Name	EC No.	CAS No.	Concentration
ABC	123-456-0	1234-56-7	<1%
XYZ	123-789-0	1234-56-0	>99%



Identify hazards using SDSs and other available information

Request SDS's from your Supplier

# How does exposure occur?



# Chemical Agent Risk Assessment Template & supporting documents



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

## Chemicals Agents Risk Assessment Template



### Purpose:

Complete this template to assess how harmful chemical activities (vapour, fume, dust, gas, liquid) can cause harm before you use them. Identify actions to minimise potential harm to workers, others in the workplace and the environment. You should also use this form to reassess the chemical activity after an accident, near-miss, changes in workplace practices or chemical spill.

## 1. General information

Company name:	<input type="text"/>	Risk assessor name:	<input type="text"/>
Assessment date:	<input type="text" value="Click or tap to enter a date."/>	Work activity being risk assessed:	<input type="text"/>
List of chemicals used in this activity (brand, mixture or substance name):	-1 <input type="text"/>		
	-2 <input type="text"/>		
	-3 <input type="text"/>		
Next review date:	<input type="text" value="Click or tap to enter a date."/>		

## 2. Details of work activity











Give details of how the hazardous chemicals are being used in this activity.




How are the chemicals used: (for example, mixing of paints and spraying)	<input type="text"/>	Staff carrying out the work: (consider trainees)	<input type="text"/>
Number of times per day or week this work activity happens (frequency):	<input type="text"/>	Number of people who might be harmed or exposed:	Staff: <input type="text"/> Non-staff: <input type="text"/>
Length of time the work activity takes each time (duration):	<input type="text"/>	Any additional information:	<input type="text"/>

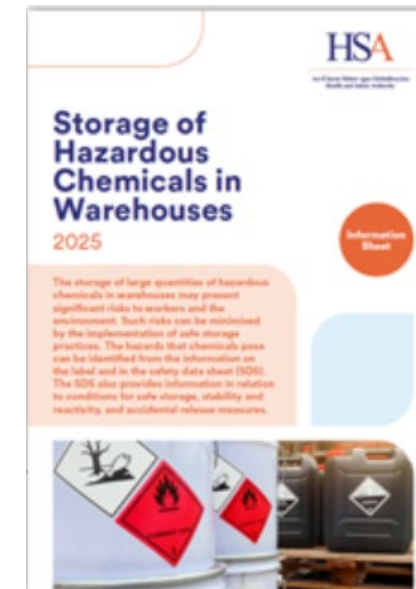
# Exposure Controls



# Storage of Chemicals

Chemical Segregation Table		Acid	Base	Oxidising	Flammable	Health Hazard/ Toxic
						
Acid		Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible
Base		Non-Compatible	Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible
Oxidising		Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible
Flammable		Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Compatible	Non-Compatible
Health Hazard/ Toxic		Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Non-Compatible	Compatible

Compatible  Store According to the SDS  Non-Compatible 

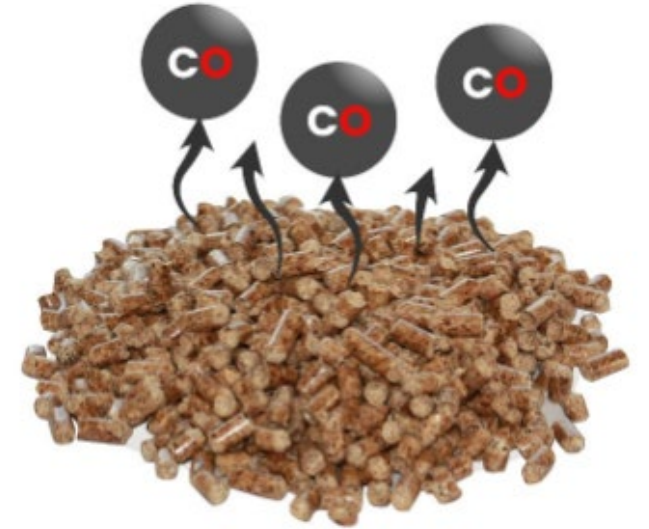


# Eg of hazardous Chemicals in Small Businesses

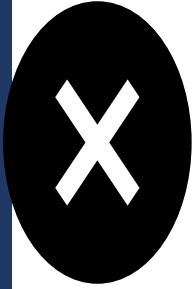




Never use diesel or LPG in confined spaces



# Don't



Never Mix Cleaning Chemicals



Avoid decanting to other containers if so clearly label



Keep lids on chemical containers

Do



Disinfectant/detergent dispenser

# HSA Chemical Awareness Course



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority



## Chemical Safety in the Workplace 1: Identifying chemical hazards

The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to chemical safety in the workplace and what you should know if you are working with chemicals. This course is an updated version of Chemical Safety in the Workplace (Introductory).

[View Details](#)



## Chemical Safety in the Workplace 2: Safe use of hazardous chemicals

This short course has been developed for all workers including employers, the self-employed, employees, temporary and contract workers. The aim of the course is to provide information and to raise awareness of the safe use of hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

[View Details](#)

**Train your employees  
on Chemical hazards  
& Safe Use**

# Radon in the Workplace

## Other pages in this section

[Climate Change](#)

[Air](#)

[Drinking water](#)

[Waste water](#)

[Freshwater and Marine](#)

[Radiation](#)

[Radon](#)

[Radon map](#)

[Health risks](#)

[Radon testing](#)

[Fixing a radon problem](#)

[Householders](#)

[Employers](#)

[Schools](#)

## Radon map of Ireland

Radon is a radioactive gas. Radon causes about 350 cases of lung cancer in Ireland each year. [Read more about the health risks of radon.](#)

Homes in some parts of Ireland are more likely to have a radon problem. These are called **High Radon Areas**.

### Radon risk map

The radon risk map will tell you if your home is in a High Radon Area. High Radon Areas are shown in red.

Even if your home is not in a High Radon Area, it may still have a high level of radon.

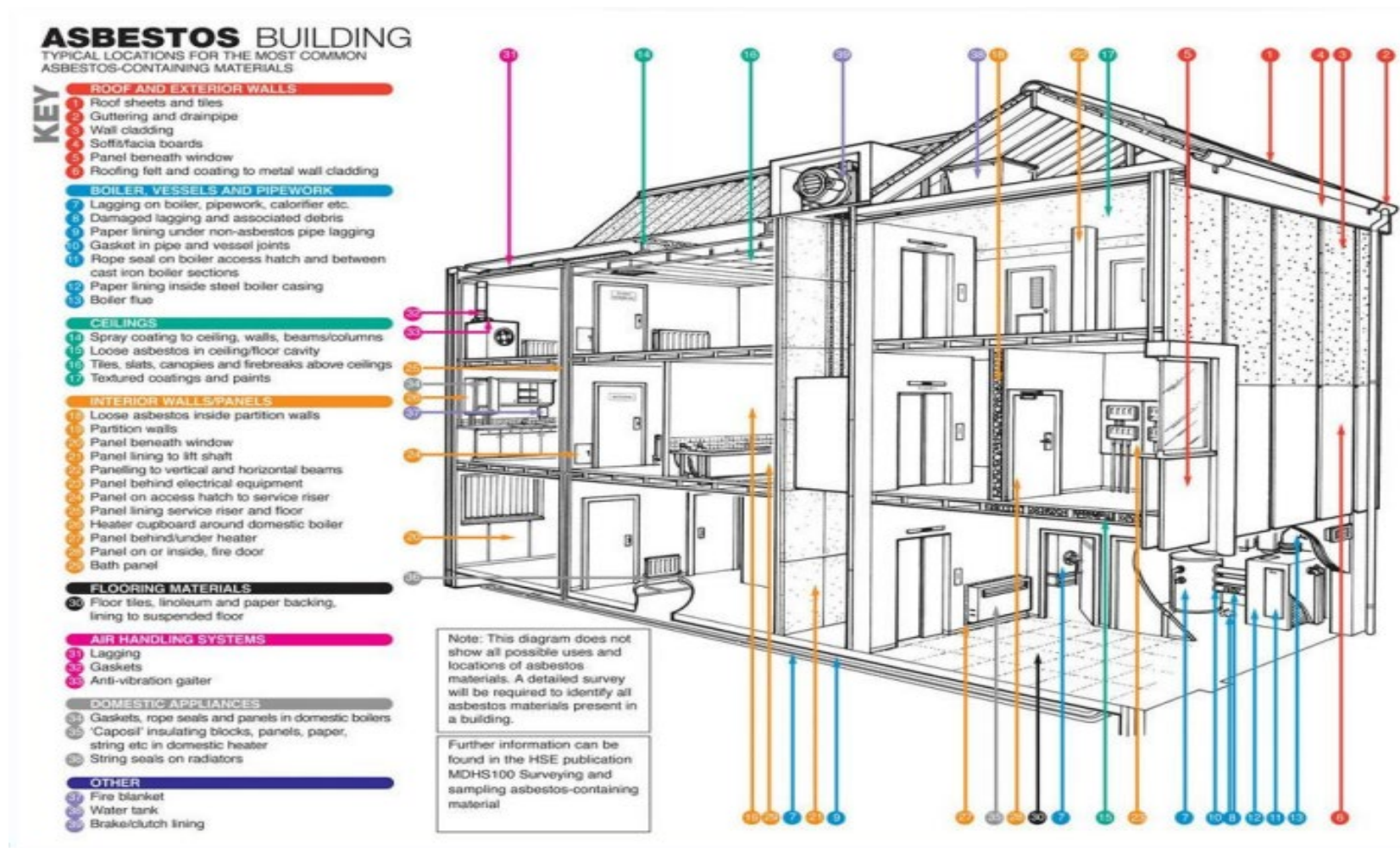
[Open the radon risk map](#)

#### How to find your home

- Enter your **Eircode** into the search bar on the map ([get your Eircode](#))
- You can also search using a postal address or map co-ordinates
- A dot will appear for the Eircode or location you entered

# Asbestos is still here!

- >3000 products used prior to 2004



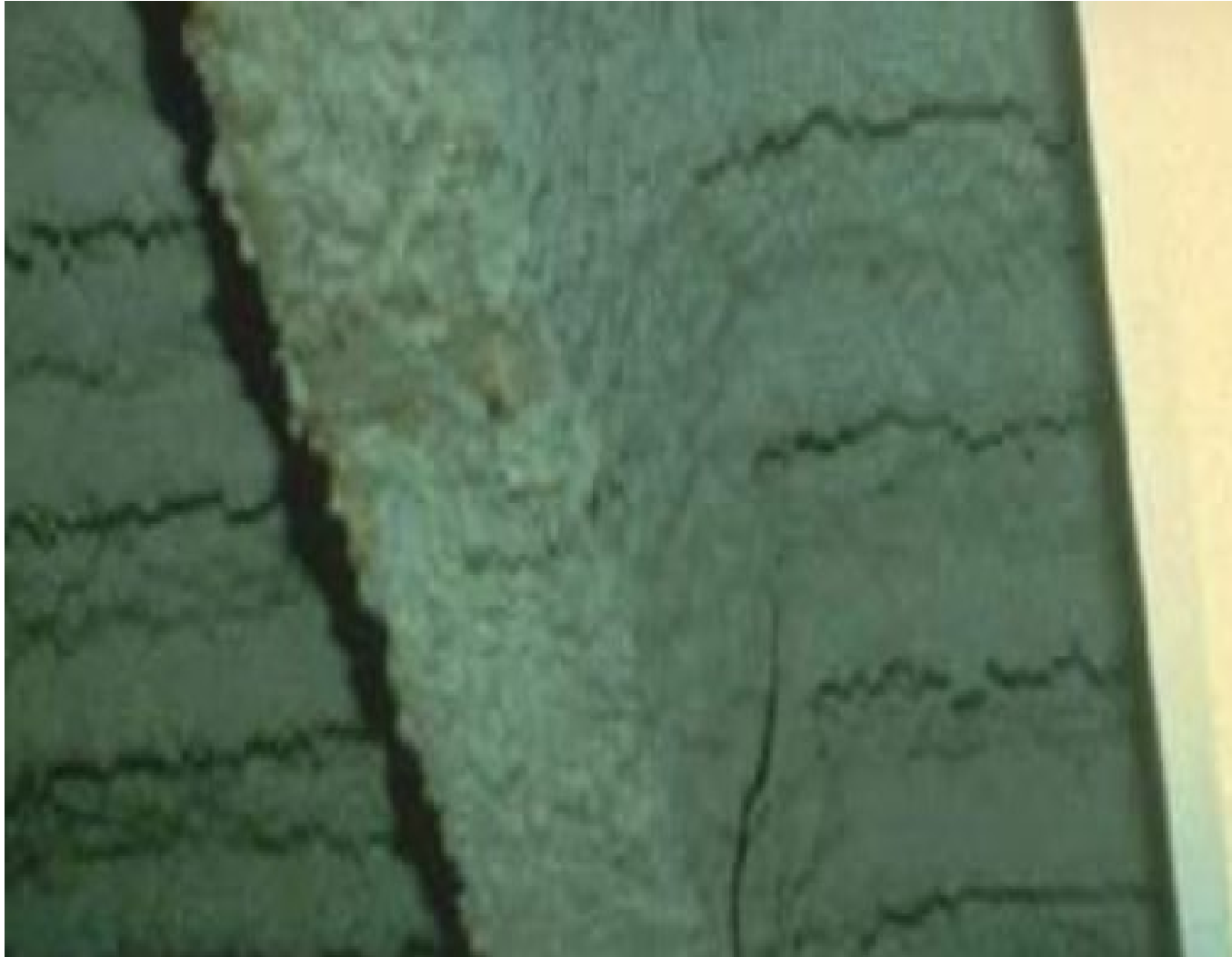
# Asbestos cement corrugated sheeting



# Spray foam insulation on the underside of a roof

HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority



# Ceiling tiles



# Pipe insulation



## Requirements:

- Asbestos Survey & risk assessment (constructed <2004)
- Prioritize Removal
- Prior to Maintenance/Refurbishment/Construction works
  - Notification to HSA
  - Works to be completed by competent Asbestos removals contractor

# Asbestos removal works



Aerial image of the fire. IMAGE: Waterford City and County Council

# Indoor Air Quality

AC unit recirculate Air



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority



# Indoor Air Quality



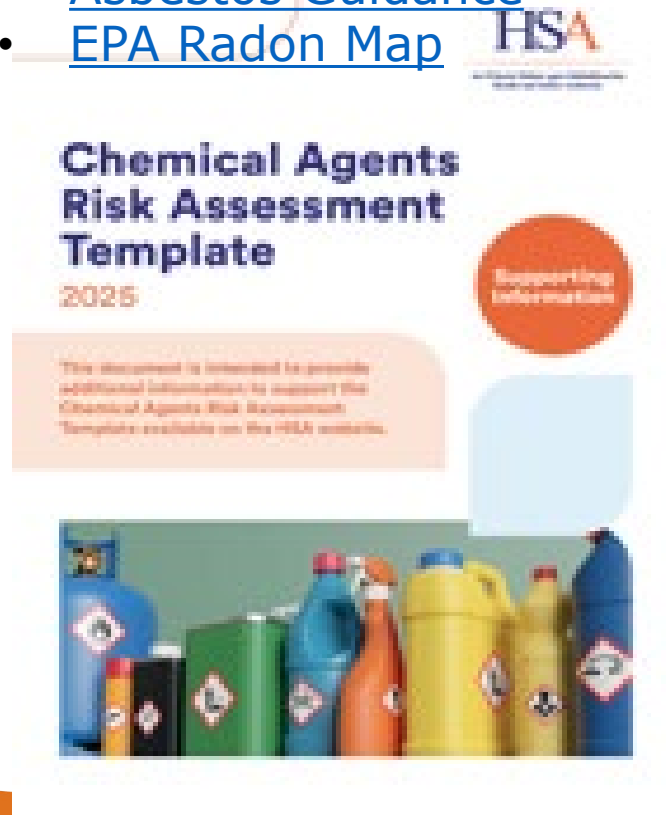
**HSA**

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority



# Resources:

- [Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations, 2008](#)
- [www.besmart.ie](http://www.besmart.ie)
- [Chemical Agent Risk Assessment Template & supporting documents](#)
- [Storage of Hazardous Chemicals](#)
- [HSA Learning](#)
- [Indoor Air Quality Code of Practice](#)
- [Asbestos Guidance](#)
- [EPA Radon Map](#)





# HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

Go raibh maith agaibh  
Thank you

T: 0818 289 389

E: [contactus@hsa.ie](mailto:contactus@hsa.ie)

W: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

