



# Inhalants: a guide for contractors

Practical advice that's good for your business  
and good for your community.

Contractors should secure products that might be misused and inhaled. This helps to reduce inhalant use and makes the building site a safer place to work.

## Why is inhalant use a concern?

Common products used in building, construction and other industries can be misused and inhaled. These products include solvents like paint, glue and petrol, as well as gases like butane and other aerosols.

## What can contractors do?

- ✓ Inform all new staff and contractors of potential issues with inhalants.
- ✓ Make sure inhalable products are securely stored during transport.
- ✓ Store inhalable products safely and securely on worksites.
- ✓ Dispose of inhalable products safely and securely, or take them with you when you leave.
- ✓ Use low aromatic fuels (such as BP's Opal and Shell Unleaded Low Aromatic) when possible. If low aromatic fuels are not available, use lockable fuel caps or diesel powered equipment.
- ✓ Consider signage indicating that sniffable products are not stored on-site.

See over for a list of commonly inhaled products.

**INSERT CONTACT DETAILS OF SERVICE IN LOCAL AREA**

This resource has been developed by Dovetail through the Australian Government's Petrol Sniffing Strategy.

[www.inhalantsupply.org](http://www.inhalantsupply.org)



Australian Government  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Dovetail**  
supporting the youth alcohol and  
drug sector in Queensland

## Examples of inhalants and their chemical components

Category	Inhalant	Chemicals
Adhesives	Airplane glue	Toluene, ethyl acetate
	Other glues	Toluene, n-hexane, acetone, benzene, methyl chloride, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl butyl ketone
Aerosols	Hair spray	Butane, propane
	Deodorants	Butane, propane
	Spray paint	Butane, propane, fluorocarbons, toluene, Trichloroethylene
	Fabric protector spray	Butane, trichloroethane
	Computer cleaners	Dimethyl ether, butane, propane, n-hexane
	Asthma sprays	Chlorofluorocarbons
Anaesthetics	Gaseous	Nitrous oxide
	Liquid	Halothane, enflurane
	Local	Ethyl chloride
Cleaning agents	Dry cleaners	Tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethane, n-hexane
	Spot removers	Xylene, petroleum distillates, chlorohydrocarbons
	Degreasers	Tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethane, trichloroethylene
	Video head cleaners	Amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, cyclohexyl nitrite
Solvents	Nail polish removers	Acetone, ethyl acetate, toluene
	Paint remover/thinners	Toluene, methylene chloride, methanol, acetone, ethyl acetate, xylene, Trichloroethylene, petroleum distillates
	Correction fluids and thinners	Trichloroethane, trichloroethylene
	Permanent marker pens	Xylene
	Petrol	Benzene, toluene, n-hexane, xylene, possibly lead
Gases	Fuel gas	Butane, propane
	Cigarette lighter fuel	Butane, propane
	Refrigerant	Freon
Food products	Whipped cream aerosols (whippets)	Nitrous oxide
Nitrites	Poppers, fluids, room odorisers	Amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, cyclohexyl nitrite