

## Removing risks to health and safety

All health and safety laws require that those with the control of work and the workplace, do all that is reasonably practicable to eliminate or reduce the risks.

The ways of controlling risks are ranked from those that provide the highest level of protection and are the most reliable to those with the lowest protection and reliability. This ranking is known as the hierarchy of controls.

Usually a combination of control measures is needed. For example when preventing exposures to eg spray paint fumes:

- Use less toxic paints -- substitution
- Work in a spray booth – engineering control/ventilation
- Keep the spray booth on after spraying is finished [clearance time] – administrative control
- Wear a respirator and keep hood down until air cleared– safety gear.

<b>Eliminate</b> i.e. remove the hazard before it reaches people	<b>Best Solution</b>
<b>Substitute</b> <b>Isolate</b> <b>Engineering Controls</b>  Effectiveness <b>does not depend</b> on human behaviour	Requires a <b>CHANGE</b> to the work, substances or workplace
<b>Administrative controls</b>  Effectiveness <b>does depend on</b> human behaviour	Requires worker or employer to <b>DO</b> something
<b>Using Personal Protective Equipment i.e. safety gear</b>  Does not control the risks directly- controls the possible harm to the person	<b>Worst Solution</b>  Requires a worker to <b>WEAR</b> something