



SUBJECT: Acid used for Graffiti

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

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HSB3

Acid used by graffiti vandals

It has been identified to us that some graffiti vandals have been using Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) to burn their "tags" (names) into glass surfaces.

This alert is intended to inform you of potential hazards with substances used to acid etch glass.

In many cases, the etching acid is transferred into empty bingo dabbers or large markers wrapped in masking tape. It is extremely corrosive and serious injuries may occur if it comes into contact with skin. HF will continue to burn into skin, even if people think they have washed it off.

You must be careful when finding any container i.e. bingo marker/large markers, etc in the vicinity of an area where you've identify "tagging" or "etching" on glass similar to the picture shown.

"UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES attempt to clear up the receptacles by hand"

Similarly if you are asked to replace windows that you suspect have been etched in this way. In both cases you must first undertake your COSHH risk assessment and provide and use suitable protective and disposal measures. Ask for advice from your H&S adviser.

If you have recently worked on "tagged" surfaces and become aware of a burning sensation you should attend hospital immediately and inform the hospital that you may have come into contact with Hydrofluoric acid and/or Nitric acid.

For further information on "Hydrofluoric acid" please see HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg307.pdf>



If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
Corporate Health & Safety or Your Mouchel Health & Safety Advisers