



RCSI

Soldering Safety

Enhancing Health & Safety in RCSI

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Read risk assessments and chemical safety information before starting work. These should be readily accessible from the soldering station.

Make sure you know what is in your solder, it is not always apparent on the reel label. If in doubt, ask.

Soldering Iron

- Never touch the element of the soldering iron....400°C!
- Hold wires to be heated with tweezers or clamps.
- Keep the cleaning sponge wet during use.
- Always return the soldering iron to its stand when not in use. Never put it down on the workbench.
- Turn unit off and unplug when not in use.

Solder, flux and cleaners

- Wear eye protection. Solder can “spit”.
- Use rosin-free and lead-free solders wherever possible.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water after soldering.

Lead exposure

- Limited fumes may be generated by soldering.

Control of fumes

- Soldering using rosin is only permitted in strictly controlled conditions after discussion with the Health & Safety Office where there is no effective alternative.



RCSI

Training and supervision

- Line Managers should inform users of the risks from soldering.
- Line Manager should ensure that controls are in place and working and that they are used correctly.
- All those soldering should be trained and supervised appropriately.

Health Surveillance

All those soldering frequently (i.e. more than once a week) and any using rosin containing solders should contact the Health & Safety Office for health surveillance advice.

Electrical Safety

- Do not use soldering irons that have obvious damage to body, cable or plug.
- All soldering irons should have had electrical safety (PAT) testing within the last twelve months. If not, contact Estates & Support Services Dept to organise.
- Keep the soldering station free of electrical cables to prevent damage from the heated tip.
- Use a grounded outlet and grounding prong if a short circuit is a possibility.

Fire Prevention

- Work on a fire-proof or fire resistant surface e.g. soldering table mat.
- Wear fire resistant clothing (e.g. 100% cotton) that covers your arms and legs to prevent accidental burns.
- Know where your nearest fire extinguisher is and how to use it (attend Fire Safety course to obtain training in the use of fire extinguishers).

First Aid

- Have a first aid bag nearby with burns gel and dressing.
- Immediate place any burns under cold water (or use gel if no water available) for 15 minutes.
- If using burn gel, place on burn and go to nearest location where there is cold running water, then take burn gel away and place under water.
- Report to a first aider (RCSI Security) if deep or extensive otherwise protect with a plaster (Band-Aid).