Dishwashing areas have chemicals and heat. Usually the floor is slippery, there may be broken glass, and it is often necessary to work in a fixed or awkward position.

**Hazard: Chemicals**

**Details**

Powerful chemicals are used to clean the dishes.

**Threat**

- Serious injury to your lungs, skin, and eyes

---

**Safe Work Guidelines**

**Before You Use Chemicals**

- Make sure that you know the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) symbols and what they mean
- Know where to find the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Know where the closest first-aid kit and emergency eyewash station are
- If you are not sure about what chemical you are using, ask your supervisor
- Make sure that you have been trained enough to use the chemicals safely

**While You Are Using Chemicals**

- Read the labels before you mix chemicals
- Use the chemical only as directed on the label
- Use the personal protective equipment (PPE) required by your employer and/or the MSDS
- If you transfer a chemical to another container, make sure that the new container is labeled properly with all the WHMIS information
- Wash your hands after handling chemicals, even if you were wearing gloves

**At All Times**

- Store the chemical in a locked area that has warning signs posted
- Do not store a chemical in a food container or store food in an empty chemical container
Working in the Dishwashing Area

Hazard: Heat
Details
Dishes coming out of the dishwasher are hot.

Threat
- Scalded or burned hands
- Respiratory hazards from chemical steam

Safe Work Guidelines
- Be aware that steam can also burn you
- Allow dishes to cool before stacking them
- Use gloves and an apron as PPE against heat
- Warn others who may be handling the hot dishes

Hazard: Slippery Floors
Details
Slippery floors may result from spills and dishwasher overflow on the floor.

Threat
- Serious injury from a fall

Safe Work Guidelines
- If you spill something
  - Follow your workplace clean-up procedures immediately
  - If you find a spill that someone else has left, clean it up right away
  - If possible, warn others about the spill
  - If you step into a spill, clean off your shoes right away
- Wear the right non-slip footwear for your job
- To avoid spilling food and liquids, scrape and stack dishes carefully

Hazard: Broken Glass
Details
Broken glass may be found in the dishwasher or the garbage.

Threat
- Minor or major cuts

Safe Work Guidelines
- Make sure that you know the right procedure for getting rid of broken glass in your workplace (e.g., wrap glass pieces in newspaper or put them in a plastic bucket to throw them out)
- Do not put broken glass into the garbage unprotected
- Do not touch broken glass with your bare hands – use PPE such as gloves
- Clean up broken glass thoroughly – do not leave any pieces on the floor
- Throw out any food, drink, or ice that broken glass may have fallen into

Hazard: Electricity
Details
Electrical hazards may be caused by improper grounding, or from faulty equipment, wires, or electrical outlets.

Threat
- Electrical shock
- Electrocution
Safe Work Guidelines

- Make sure that any standard outlets in the dishwashing area are replaced with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets
- Make sure that grounded equipment has a 3-prong plug
- To identify faulty or poor cords, check cords regularly
- To unplug electrical equipment, pull the plug, not the cord
- Do not make octopus connections (too many plugs in one outlet)
- Keep cords away from heat, water, and oil, which can damage the insulation and cause a shock

Hazard: Working in a Fixed or Awkward Position

Details
Muscles tire quickly when you work in a fixed or awkward position, causing higher risk of injury.

Threat
- Muscle strain and associated tendon, nerve, disc, or joint pain

Safe Work Guidelines

- Make sure that your working area is organized to prevent strain on your body
- Stay in a comfortable working position
- Be aware of working conditions, heights of stations, anti-fatigue mats, etc.
- Learn to recognize signs of tiredness that may result from work-related ergonomic problems
- If you have to lift anything that is heavy or awkward, ask for help, use a dolly or call another person