

Information for Contractors in Western Australia

Volatile substance use in Western Australia

Some regional areas of Western Australia can experience issues with the misuse of volatile substances, particularly among young people. Inhaling or 'sniffing' these substances is very dangerous and can be fatal.

You can help support communities by reducing the chance of volatile substances being misused.

What is volatile substance use?

Volatile substance use is when someone deliberately inhales the gas, fumes or vapour from a volatile substance product to get a 'high' or feel intoxicated.

It's also called *inhalant use* or *solvent use*.

What products are volatile substances?

Most volatile substance products are everyday items sold in shops or online and are found in or around homes, businesses and industrial sites.

Common products that may be misused include:

- **aerosols** – aerosol products such as spray paints, automotive and cleaning products
- **solvents** – petrol, glues/adhesives, other products for cleaning/thinning/stripping
- **gases** – butane / propane gas canisters used in camping stoves, soldering irons and flame torches, and acetylene used for welding.

How can you help reduce access to volatile substances?

If you use volatile substance products as part of your work, you may unintentionally provide access to people who misuse these products to get high. Volatile substances are often stolen from worksites, vehicles and landfill, so it is important they are stored, transported and disposed of safely.

USE

- Use non-solvent based products and aerosols with alternative propellants, where possible.
- Use Low Aromatic Fuel (LAF), where available. If you usually use unleaded fuel, top up your tank with LAF when you arrive in a community/town.
- Use diesel-powered equipment where LAF is not available.
- Keep track of the volatile substance products you have and check them before you leave a community/town. If anything is missing, please report it to the police.

STORE

- Lock up all volatile substance products and petrol-powered equipment and keep them out of sight.

TRANSPORT

- Always keep your vehicle locked, especially when it's unattended.

DISPOSE

- Take all used and unused volatile substance products with you when you leave a community/town.
- Make sure all volatile substance products are disposed of at secure sites not accessible to the public. Contact your local shire for guidance to dispose of volatile substances correctly.

REPORT

- You can report incidents like stolen products or people using volatile substances at vsureport.mhc.wa.gov.au

Further information



For more information about volatile substance use, visit the Mental Health Commission's VSU website vsu.mhc.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code

The **Alcohol and Drug Support Line (ADSL)**, a 24-hour drug and alcohol counselling and information service 9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (for country callers toll free)

Your local **Central Coordinating Agency** for volatile substance use issues:

For police assistance

Police: **131 444**

For emergencies

Ambulance or Police: **000 (Triple Zero)**