

### **Employers, Workers, and Consumers:**

If MC-based strippers must be used, always follow the manufacturer's instructions and follow the steps below to **help protect employees and yourself from being fatally injured by MC vapors:**

- Establish local exhaust ventilation and fresh makeup air. Local Exhaust: Attach ductwork to a fan. Place one end of the ductwork in the tub. Place fan at window or door to exhaust MC vapors to the outside of the building. Fresh air: Place another fan in a window or doorway.



**WARNING:** Using a standard bathroom ceiling exhaust fan alone will not provide enough ventilation to protect workers.

- Wear a full-face, supplied-air respirator when applying and removing MC-based strippers.



**WARNING:** Dust masks and cartridge respirators will not protect workers.

- Leave the room after applying MC strippers. Keep fresh air and local exhaust fans running and windows and doors open.
- Use butyl rubber or polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gloves.



**WARNING:** Latex or nitrile gloves will not protect workers.

- Implement safe work practices such as: add a tool handle extender to minimize leaning into the tub.

**WARNING:** Following the above steps may not be enough to protect you from methylene chloride's long-term health effects.

### **Massachusetts Resources**

#### **MA Department of Labor Standards (DLS)**

The DLS offers free consultation services to help employers recognize and control potential hazards at their worksites, and assist in training employees.

**Go to:** [www.mass.gov/dols/consult](http://www.mass.gov/dols/consult)

#### **Results of the Massachusetts methylene chloride end-users survey.**

A survey of Massachusetts companies reporting use of methylene chloride between 1995 and 1999.

**Go to:** [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12519687](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12519687)  
Roelofs CR, Ellenbecker MJ. Journal of *Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*. Volume 18(2), pages 132-137. 2003.

#### **MA Department of Public Health**

The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) project investigates work-related fatalities and develops prevention recommendations. Full reports of incidents are available for free online.

**Go to:** [www.mass.gov/dph/face](http://www.mass.gov/dph/face)  
and click on "Educational Materials" and then "Fatality Case Reports"

### **National Resources**

#### **Fatal Exposure to Methylene Chloride Among Bathtub Refinishers—United States, 2000 - 2011**

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. February 24, 2012. Volume 61(07); pages 119-122.

**Go to:** [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6107.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6107.pdf)

#### **Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA): Methylene Chloride**

Detailed web content on the OSHA Standard and employer requirements.

**Go to:** [www.osha.gov/SLTC/methylenechloride/](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/methylenechloride/)

User-friendly booklet of the OSHA Standard and employer requirements.

**Go to:** [www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3144.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3144.pdf)

#### **National Institute for Safety & Health (NIOSH): Methylene Chloride Resources**

Variety of resources and links on methylene chloride, including the NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards

**Go to:** [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/methylenechloride/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/methylenechloride/)

*We would like to acknowledge Michigan FACE, in the Occupational & Environmental Medicine Division at Michigan State University, for helping to make this alert possible.* [www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)