

Strong Acids and Ammonia

It is not illegal to openly display strong acids and ammonia, or to supply it to under 18s.

However, they are products that the Police and the Council would prefer to be displayed and supplied responsibly. This is because the danger they pose if they are used as a weapon, or even innocently misused.

Drain cleaners, like the ones shown below, are often the substance used in 'acid attacks' and will very quickly cause skin and flesh to burn, causing permanent, life-changing disfigurement.



Other household products, such as strong ammonia, can also cause similar damage. The more diluted products are still capable of causing burns or irritation



These are the products that we would like retailers to remove from open display and sell only to customers who are over 21, or known to the business. They will all carry the chemical hazard symbol, below, showing it to be corrosive, together with a written warning.



Many weaker products, however, also carry this symbol and we would not want you to take them all off open display. We are only interested in those that could be used to attack you, your staff or other people. If the written warning says that "Severe skin burns" and recommends the use of gloves and safety goggles, this is likely to be strong enough to do serious harm, so please look at all household chemical products, so that you can make an informed decision.

If in doubt, please ask Trading Standards for further information.