

# Chemicals – Modern Demons



# Vocabulary

**Blessing:** something good that you are grateful for.

**Curse:** something that brings or causes great trouble or harm.

**Fatal:** causing death.

**Welding:** join together (metal pieces or parts) by heating.

**Toxic:** acting as or having the effect of a poison; poisonous.

**Hazard:** an unavoidable danger or risk.

**Corrode:** destroy or damage (metal, stone, or other materials) slowly by chemical action.

**Oxidizing:** combine or become combined chemically with oxygen.

# Introduction

Chemicals ensure that we have heat and power; that we can buy goods and clothing; and that we have continual access to telecommunication, media and music wherever we are. Many of the changes we observe in the natural world around us are actually caused by chemical reactions, such as the changing colours of leaves and the growth of a flower.

Chemicals are a significant contributor to our economies. Sound chemical management across the lifecycle of a chemical – from extraction or production to disposal – is therefore essential to avoid risks to human health and the environment. Nevertheless, there are two sides to the coin; they are a **blessing** and a **curse**.