



Stop accidents!

Become aware of the hazards and avoid accidents with chemicals at home.

Stop accidents!

Every year chemicals used in private households cause several accidents which could have been avoided. The label on the packaging shows the hazardous properties of the chemical. If you read this folder you will get a better understanding of the hazard types, and thus you can avoid accidents at home.

Today the hazard labelling with the orange danger symbols is well-known. During the next couple of years these symbols will be replaced by new hazard pictograms, as the EU has adopted new rules for classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals. The new rules build on a Globally Harmonised System (GHS) which is being introduced worldwide. In this folder you will find a presentation of the new hazard pictograms as well as a description of the hazards the pictograms refer to.

The hazard information of a product can be found on the label of a product. In addition to the new pictograms, labels contain information about hazard type and precautions for use. The label will often also contain a signal word which will be “Warning” or “Danger”. The latter will be mentioned on the most hazardous products.

Generally hazard labelled products must be stored safely and out of the reach of children. They should also not be kept together with food, animal feeding stuffs, medicines and the like.

Large quantities of concentrated spills and residues should not be discharged into drains, unless this is the intended use. Disposal of the content and its container must be in accordance with national regulation. For disposal advice, please look at the label.

Five good advices

- Keep chemicals in original container.
- Follow the instructions on the label.
- Do not expose skin, eyes and lungs to chemicals.
- Chemicals should be kept out of reach of children.
- Consider the environment before disposing chemicals.





Health hazard

Chemicals which cause skin and eye irritation, allergic skin reactions, irritation to airways, drowsiness or dizziness.

Examples

Scale remover, toilet cleaner, cooling liquid, some types of glue.

Precautions

Depending on the hazards, it is recommended to wear protective gloves and eye protection. Avoid inhalation if there is a risk of airway irritation, drowsiness or dizziness.

Hazards

Some products may cause irritation of airways by inhalation. Other products may contain organic solvents which can make you drowsy and dizzy if inhaled. Vapours may cause headache and intoxication. Ingestion may be dangerous or just cause discomfort and irritate mucous membranes in mouth and stomach. Some products may cause an allergic response after skin contact whereas others may cause skin irritation and rash. If the product gets into eyes, they may get irritated.

Symbol to be phased out



Irritant/Harmful



Corrosive

Chemicals which cause skin corrosion, serious eye damage or corrode metals.

Examples

Acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, ammonia, drain cleaner.

Precautions

Wear protective gloves and eye protection and avoid inhalation.

Hazards

Inhalation of vapours/spray mist is corrosive to the airways. Inhalation may cause a burning sensation in mouth and throat, together with sneezing, coughing, breathing difficulties and chest pain. If you swallow the product it may cause burns in mouth, gullet and stomach. This will cause pain in mouth, throat and stomach and give difficulty in swallowing and bloody vomit. The product has a corrosive effect on skin and gives a burning pain, flushing, blisters and burns. If the substance gets into eyes, it may cause severe burns, pain, tearing and eyelid cramps. Risk of serious damage to eyes with loss of vision.

Symbols to be phased out



Corrosive



Irritant



Flammable

Flammable liquids and their vapours, gases, aerosols and solids.

Examples

Motor fuel, fuels for cooking, ethanol, nail polish remover, LPG-bottles and aerosols driven by LPG.

Precautions

Keep away from heat and naked flames and do not smoke near these products. Keep the container tightly closed and stored in a cool and well-ventilated place. It is recommended to wear protective gloves and eye protection if there is a risk of eye splash.

Hazards

The products are highly flammable and ignite if exposed to open fires, sparks and/or heat. Violent or explosive burning may result. Some products emit flammable gases in contact with water or self-ignite in air. Extinguish possible fires with powder, foam, carbon dioxide, fire blankets or water mist. Do not use water stream, as it might spread the fire. Move the product from the danger area if this can be done without risk.

Symbol to be phased out



Highly flammable/Extremely flammable



Environmental hazards

Chemicals which are hazardous to the environment.

Examples

Turpentine, petrol, pesticides, biocides, paints, varnishes, some types of glue.

Precautions

Avoid release to the environment. Do not empty into drains, unless this is the intended use. Disposal of the content and its container must be in accordance with national regulation.

Hazards

These products are toxic to organisms living in water and may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

Symbol to be phased out



Dangerous for the environment



Chronic health hazard

Chemicals which cause chronic effects such as cancer, genetic damage and impaired fertility. Also includes chemicals which cause allergy by inhalation, specific organ toxicity and aspiration toxicity.

Examples

Turpentine, petrol, cellulose thinner, lamp oil.

Precautions

Avoid inhalation. Wear protective gloves, and eye protection if there is a risk of eye splash. Disposal of the content and its container must be in accordance with national regulation.

Hazards

Allergic reactions in airways or breathing difficulties. Vapours may cause headaches and intoxication. Ingestion may cause discomfort and irritate mucous membranes in the stomach. Some products may be lethal if they are ingested and get into the airways where they may cause chemical pneumonia. Exposure to some products may damage health permanently (e.g. cancer, effects on reproduction).

Symbols to be phased out



Toxic



Harmful



Oxidising

Chemicals (gas, liquid or solid), which cause or contribute to the combustion of another material.

Examples

Disinfection tablets and liquids, bleaching agents, oxygen gas used for breathing disabilities.

Precautions

Keep away from heat and naked flames and do not smoke near these products. Store away from products which are flammable. It is recommended to wear protective gloves and eye protection if there is a risk of eye splash.

Hazards

Oxidising substances are not necessarily combustible themselves but they can contribute to developing a fire and worsen it. Extinguish possible fires with powder, foam, carbon dioxide, fire blankets or water mist. Do not use water stream, as it might spread the fire. Move the product from the danger area if this can be done without risk.

Symbol to be phased out



Oxidising



Acute toxic

Chemicals which are acutely toxic by ingestion, skin contact and/or inhalation. Chemicals with this pictogram can be lethal.

Examples

Pesticides, biocides, methanol.

Precautions

These products are normally not found in ordinary households and may require special authorisation for purchase. May require breathing apparatus, protective gloves, eye protection and special work clothes. Toxic products must be stored locked up. Disposal of the content and its container must be in accordance with national regulation.

Hazards

The products are toxic and may be lethal by ingestion, skin contact and/or inhalation.

Symbols to be phased out



Very toxic/Toxic



Harmful



Gases under pressure

Gases in containers under pressure (2 bar or higher).

Examples

LPG-bottles, welding gas, oxygen cylinders.

Precautions

Gases under pressure must be stored in a well-ventilated place protected from sunlight. Make sure that all tubes and fittings are tight.

Hazards

Attention: Gases under pressure may explode when heated. The hazard type is shown on the label and may vary a lot depending on the gas being flammable, oxidizing, toxic or corrosive. Gas cylinders may also contain cooled gas which may give frostbites.

There is no existing symbol for this hazard



Explosive

Explosive chemicals and explosive articles (objects).

Example

Nitroglycerine, ammunition, fireworks.

Precautions

Keep away from heat and naked flames and do not smoke near these products. It is recommended to wear eye protection. Be aware of national regulations for storage and disposal.

Hazards

Explosion with shock wave and projection of fragments. May cause ignition of other materials.

Symbol to be phased out



Explosive



First aid

The label gives advice on first aid. In case of persistent discomfort, you should seek medical advice, either by contacting a doctor or your national poison control centre – please see below. When seeking medical advice you should have product container or label at hand.

Denmark

P +45 82 12 12 12

www.giftlinjen.dk

Norway

P +47 22 59 13 00

www.helsedirektoratet.no/giftinfo

Sweden

P 112 in case of emergency.

P +46 8 33 12 31 for questions concerning acute poisonings.

www.giftinformation.se

Finland

P +358 9 471 977

www.myrkytystietokeskus.fi

Iceland

P +354 543 1000 or +354 543 2222

www.landspitali.is/pages/14556

You can find this folder in your Nordic language on the websites shown below. On these websites you can also find a quiz where you can test if you understand the hazards the pictograms refer to.



www.norden.org/nkg



www.mst.dk



www.klif.no



www.kemi.se



www.clpneuvonta.fi



www.ust.is