

TOOLBOX TALKS/SAFETY TALKS

Warning Labels (Hazardous/Chemical)

Recognizing and Understanding Hazardous Chemical Warning Labels

Understanding warning labels will help you to handle and use hazardous chemicals properly and to avoid health and safety problems at the worksite. The HazardCommunication Standard-or HazCom-requires all hazardous chemical containers to havewarning labels on them or on a sign placed near the container.

What You Can Find on a Warning Label

- the name of the chemical
- the name, address and telephone
- number of the manufacturer or importer
- the chemical code number
- one of three signal words indicating the danger level of the chemical: "Warning," "Caution" or "Danger"
- the word "Poison" if the chemical is highly toxic
- physical hazards (flammable, explosive, corrosive, etc.)
- health hazards (eye, lung and skin irritation, burns, etc.)

Some warning labels may also show:

- how to store the chemical.
- how to dispose of the chemical.
- what personal protective equipment to use with the chemical.
- how to clean up the chemical.
- how to handle leaks or spills.
- first aid instructions for exposure.

Always Read the Label

When you take responsibility for knowing the contents of chemical containers, you protectyourself and every other worker at your worksite.

- Always read the warning label whenever you use any hazardous chemical. Even if you've used the same chemical many times, the manufacturer may have changed theformula or provided the wrong concentration.
- Avoid identifying chemicals by the label's color or design alone.
- If the label raises any questions in your mind about the appropriate ness of yourenvironment and protective equipment, check your company's policy or consult yoursupervisor before using the chemical.

Safety Checklist

- I always read the warning label every time I work with the chemical.
- I make sure each chemical in my area has a label.
- I report missing or illegible labels.
- If I don't understand the information on the label, I ask for help.
- I always follow the instructions on the label.
- I make sure labels aren't covered up or removed.
- If I need to know more information about a chemical, I read the Material Safety DataSheet (MSDS).

For more info go to www.safetyontheset.com



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Training & Education

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