

CHEMICAL HAZARD SYMBOLS

Chemical hazard symbols are found on some home products, as well as bottles of chemical reagents in the lab. Here, we take a look at European hazard symbols and the various dangers that they warn of.



ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

Indicates substances that are toxic to aquatic organisms, or may cause long lasting environmental effects. They should be disposed of responsibly.



TOXIC

Indicates life-threatening effects, in some cases even after limited exposure. Any form of ingestion and skin contact should be avoided.



GAS UNDER PRESSURE

Container contains pressurised gas. This may be cold when released, and explosive when heated. Containers should not be heated.



CORROSIVE

May cause burns to skin and damage to eyes. May also corrode metals. Avoid skin & eye contact, and do not breathe vapours.



EXPLOSIVE

May explode as a consequence of fire, heat, shock or friction. Chemicals with this label should be kept away from potential ignition sources.



FLAMMABLE

Flammable when exposed to heat, fire or sparks, or give off flammable gases when reacting with water. Ignition sources should be avoided.



CAUTION

May irritate the skin, or exhibit minor toxicity. The chemical should be kept away from the skin and the eyes as a precaution.



OXIDISING

Burns even in the absence of air, and can intensify fires in combustible materials. Should be kept away from ignition sources.



HEALTH HAZARD

Short or long term exposure could cause serious long term health effects. Skin contact and ingestion of this chemical should be avoided.

