

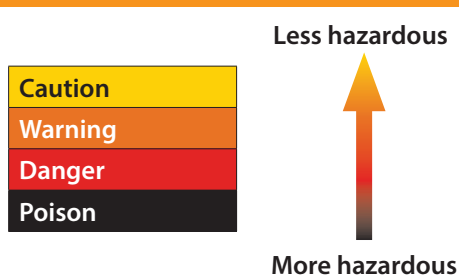
Label reading activity

Name of product	Signal words – level of hazard	Characteristic words – type of hazard	Precautionary statements	Directions for storage	Directions for disposal



Signal words

If the product is hazardous, it will include one of the following words, which indicates the level of hazardous.



Characteristic words

Labels may include the following words and/or precautionary statements for different types of hazards:

Flammable/combustible	Corrosive	Toxic	Reactive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable • Inflammable • Ignitable • Combustible • Petroleum distillates • Do not use near flame • Do not store near heat • Keep in cool, dry place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes burns to skin • Caustic • Contains lye • Contains acid • May cause burns on contact • Wear rubber gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poison • Harmful or fatal if swallowed • Vapor harmful • Harmful if absorbed by skin • Avoid skin contact • Skull and cross bones symbol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May react violently • Explosive • Store separately from other products

How hazardous is it and how do I store it?


Signal words

Federal law requires labeling of hazardous products by using these signal words. By understanding the difference in the use of signal words, you can determine how hazardous a product is.

Become a label reader

Reading the label on household products can tell you how hazardous a product is. Look for signal words on labels and choose the least hazardous product.

Less hazardous



More hazardous

Signal Word	Hazard Level
Caution	mild/moderate hazard
Warning	moderate hazard
Danger	extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic
Poison	highly toxic

Characteristic words

Characteristic words indicate the type of hazard posed by a product and are usually found after the signal word on the label.

- Flammable/combustible Easily set on fire
- Corrosive..... Results in chemical reaction that can burn skin or eyes and destroy other material
- Toxic..... Causes injury through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption
- Reactive..... May explode from heat exposure, shock or pressure. May product toxic gas if combined with other substances.