

FIRST AID AND PROPER DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS

Should poisoning result from the use or handling of any chemical, the first response should be to read the label and follow any instructions outlined there.

Every effort should be made to consult a physician at the earliest time possible.

Always save the container to show the doctor. This is why it is particularly important that chemicals be kept in their original container as the label usually provides critical information for all first responders.

Chemicals are not only hazardous to the users but to the environment as well.

- Clean up spills as quickly as possible
- Never dispose of chemicals in any water body (streams, rivers, lakes or the sea). This also means that pesticide containers should not be washed in these areas as this may poison the creatures that depend on these areas for survival.

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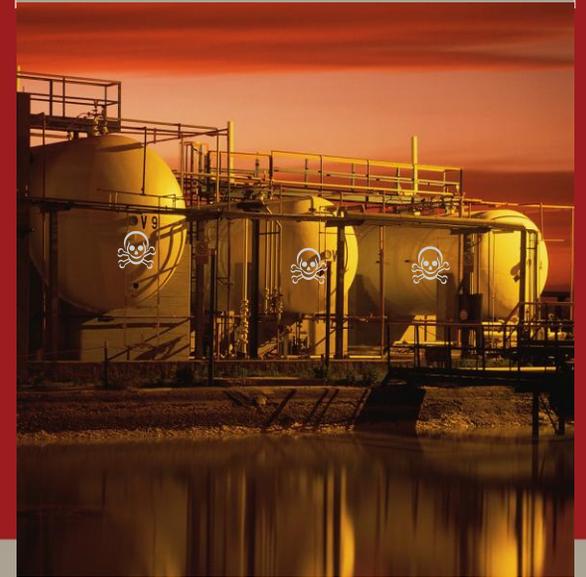


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PROPER USE AND DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS



*Consumer Affairs
Commission*

Protecting your rights, securing our future

WHAT SOME OF THE POPULAR PICTOGRAMS ON CHEMICAL LABELS MEAN

Flammable liquid and vapour



Toxic to fish & other water creatures



Fatal if swallowed



Toxic in contact with skin, causes burns

According to international standards, every chemical should have a label bearing the name of the product, a hazard statement, a signal word and a pictogram.

Signal word – alerts the reader to a potential hazard. E.g. “Danger” “Warning”

Pictogram – a drawing/picture used to convey potential health risks associated with use of the chemical.

SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS

Chemicals help to improve the standard of living in many countries and are used every day in a variety of ways. Chemicals often used by consumers on a regular basis include: pesticides, kerosene, insecticides, LPG, bleach and other cleaning products. These chemicals pose serious risks to our health and safety if their use and disposal are not carefully managed.

Take note of the following points:

- **Never** use chemicals around people who are eating or drinking.
- **Do not** eat, drink or touch the mouth or eye while handling chemicals.
- **Never** place poison for rodents/insects in areas that are accessible to children.
- Carefully read the label and diligently follow the instructions.
- Rinse nipple bottles with pure water after washing them with bleach.

- Wash and scrub all fruits under running water to remove bacteria and residual chemicals. Do the same for vegetables. If using leafy vegetables, discard the outer leaves and thoroughly wash the remaining ones.
- Cleanse hands after handling chemicals.

SAFE STORAGE OF CHEMICALS

- **Never** store chemicals in containers which are usually associated with food or drink such as drink bottles.
- Store chemicals in their original containers with the original labels attached.
- **Never** leave chemicals in areas where they can be accessed by children.
- Store chemicals **away** from food, drink and water.
- Store chemicals in cool, dry areas to reduce the risk of leakage.