

## Using chemical products safely

How to protect your health and the environment

### Purchase

- 1 Observe hazard symbols
- 2 Read hazard warnings
- 3 Check alternatives
- 4 Only buy as much as you need

### Use

- 5 Observe instructions for use
- 6 Follow safety information
- 7 Wear appropriate protective equipment
- 8 Do not leave unattended

### Storage and disposal

- 9 Store in a safe place out of the reach of children
- 10 Never pour into food or drink containers
- 11 Observe disposal instructions



## New symbols for everyday hazards

To **protect** your health and the environment: Observe the **hazard symbols** and safety information.

English

## Observe new hazard symbols!

The first step towards ensuring the safe handling of chemical products is to observe the hazard labelling. The new, globally standardised hazard symbols can now be found on all chemical products. The symbols and safety information on the label help consumers to purchase the right chemical products and handle them correctly. This globally harmonised system (GHS) has taken immediate effect. As the transition is to be seamless, products featuring the old labelling (orange hazard symbols) may still be sold until 2017.

### Hazard labelling

By law, the following information and warnings must feature on all hazardous chemical products that are used at work and at home. These must always be observed.

**Hazard symbols**  
Regulated by law, globally standardised

**Hazard warnings**  
Exact description of hazard (see "Typical properties" on the reverse)

**Safety information**  
How to avoid taking risks (see "Measures" on the reverse)

**Hazard level**  
Provides a simple indication of the severity of the hazard(s)



### Label information

You will find labels such as this one on products in one of the three national languages. The following information must be provided.

### Product name

Never use the product for any purpose other than that prescribed by the manufacturer

### Instructions for use

Always follow the exact dosage instructions

### Contents

The law stipulates which contents must be listed

### Manufacturer's address

## Protective measures when handling chemical products

### The hazards

Improper handling of chemical products can result in immediate injury or serious health consequences. By observing the hazard warnings on the label and taking appropriate preventive measures when handling chemical products, you can prevent injury and avoid long-term damage to your health. Your company's safety officer or the outlet selling the product will be able to provide you with information and guidance on the necessary preventive measures.

### Inhalation

**Situation:** It is possible to inhale chemical products by spraying them, sanding or working in poorly ventilated rooms without a protective mask.

**Risks:** Inhaling fumes, dust and gases can lead to irritation and burning of the respiratory tract and lungs. There is also a risk of poisoning should certain substances enter the bloodstream. This can lead to a coma and respiratory failure.

### Skin contact

**Situation:** Your skin can come into direct contact with chemical products through splashing or cleaning the skin with chemicals such as petrol, or working without protective gloves.

**Risks:** Skin contact can lead to local skin irritation or lesions, contact allergies, long-term skin damage, and the absorption of toxic substances through the skin and into the bloodstream.



### Danger to the eyes

**Situation:** A chemical product can get into your eyes through a splash, touching your eyes with dirty hands or working without safety glasses.

**Risks:** If a chemical comes into contact with the eyes, this may cause local irritation or burning with long-term visual impairment.

### Ingestion

**Situation:** Dust, liquids and substances can be ingested by eating food with dirty hands or by mistakenly consuming chemical products that have been stored in food or drink containers.

**Risks:** Ingestion such as this can lead to local irritation or burning of the oral cavity, oesophagus or stomach. Poisoning may occur if the substances are absorbed and enter into the bloodstream. In certain circumstances, this can be fatal. Chemical pneumonia – caused by swallowing or vomiting chemical products such as paraffin – is an underestimated risk. A small mouthful of such a substance could be fatal to a child.

## Appropriate protection

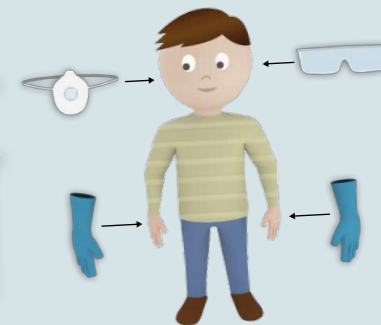
Providing you observe the hazard warnings on the label and follow the recommendations when using chemical products, you will be suitably protected against accidents. Here's how you can stay protected:

### Dust mask

Protect your lungs against dust and toxic fumes, and make sure you keep your working area well ventilated if using the product indoors, e.g. sanding.

### Long-sleeved clothing, closed footwear

Protect your skin against dust and splashing, e.g. when painting or using paint strippers.



### Safety glasses

Your eyes are very sensitive and should be well protected. Wear safety glasses at all times when using corrosive products such as oven or drain cleaners, or when using paint strippers.

### Protective gloves

Your hands are particularly exposed. Protect them by wearing protective gloves, e.g. when using corrosive products such as oven or drain cleaners, or when using paint strippers.

## Typical personal protective equipment



### Safety glasses

Schutzbrille  
Lunettes de protection  
Occhiali di protezione



### Protective mask

Schutzmaske  
Masque de protection  
Maschera protettiva



### Protective gloves

Schutzhandschuhe  
Gants de protection  
Guanti protettivi



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A campaign on the responsible handling of chemical products in everyday life.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Gesundheit BAG

Eidgenössische Koordinationskommission  
für Arbeitssicherheit EKAS

Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU

Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft BLW

ASA | SVV

Schweizerischer Versicherungsverband  
Association Suisse d'Assurances  
Associazione Svizzera d'Assicurazioni



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# Overview of hazard symbols

Typical properties  
(see hazard warnings  
on the product label)

Measures  
(see safety information  
on the product label)

Product samples



## CAUTION DANGEROUS

May irritate the skin, trigger allergies or eczema, and cause drowsiness. May cause poisoning upon contact. May damage the ozone layer.

Avoid contact with skin. Only use the required amount. Seal carefully after use.

*Washing machine tabs, cleaning agents, bleach*



## HIGHLY FLAMMABLE

May catch fire if it comes into contact with flames or sparks, or as a result of impact, friction or heat, or contact with air or water. May catch fire, even without external influences, if stored incorrectly.

Keep away from ignition sources. Have the necessary extinguishing agents to hand. Pay attention to the storage temperature. Seal carefully after use.

*Fire starters, paraffin, spray cans, solvents*



## OXIDISING

May cause or accelerate fires. Releases oxygen in a fire and can therefore only be extinguished by special means. It is impossible to smother the flames.

Always store away from flammable materials. Have the necessary extinguishing products to hand. Seal carefully after use.

*Hydrogen peroxide, bleach*



## EXPLOSIVE

May explode if it comes into contact with flames or sparks, or as a result of impact, friction or heat. May cause an explosion, even without external influences, if stored incorrectly.

To be used by experts or trained personnel only. Pay attention to ambient temperature when storing and using the product. Seal carefully after use.

*Nitroglycerine*



## PRESSURISED GAS

Contains compressed, liquefied or dissolved gases. Odourless and invisible gases can escape unnoticed. Heat or deformation may cause containers of compressed gas to burst.

Keep out of sunlight and store in a well-ventilated room (not in the cellar!) Seal carefully after use.

*Propane and butane gas bottles, CO<sub>2</sub> bottles for soda water production*



## HAZARDOUS TO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

Can cause acute harm to aquatic organisms such as fish, aquatic insects and aquatic plants in low doses or over a prolonged period.

Pay attention to hazard warnings and safety information on the label, and follow the user/dosage instructions. Return products that are no longer needed or partially empty containers to the sales outlet, or dispose of them as hazardous waste.

*Mildew remover, insecticide sprays, swimming pool chemicals, engine oil*



## CORROSIVE

Can cause severe burns and damage to the eyes. Can dissolve certain materials (e.g. textiles). Is dangerous to animals, plants and organic matter of all kinds.

Always wear gloves and safety glasses when handling the product. Seal carefully after use.

*Oven cleaners, descalers, drain cleaners, strong cleaning agents, cleaning concentrates*

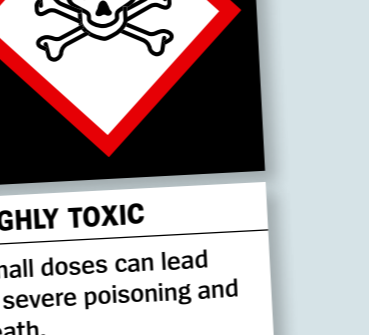


## HARMFUL TO HEALTH

Can damage certain organs. Can lead to immediate or significant, long-term health impairments, cancer, or damage genetic make-up, fertility or development. Can be fatal if it enters the respiratory system.

Never ingest, avoid any unnecessary contact, bear in mind long-term consequences. Seal carefully after use.

*Petrol, methanol, varnish/lacquer, fire starters, paraffin, certain essential oils*



## HIGHLY TOXIC

Small doses can lead to severe poisoning and death.

Use with great caution. Wear suitable protective equipment such as gloves and a mask. Do not endanger others. Seal carefully after use.

*Mouse and rat poison*

## First aid Accidents involving chemical products

**24-hour emergency number: 145**  
For non-urgent cases, please call 044 251 66 66  
Website: [www.toxi.ch](http://www.toxi.ch)

- In case of ingestion**
- Call emergency number 145 immediately
  - Do not induce vomiting and do not administer fluids unless told to do so by a medical practitioner (tel. 145 or local doctor)

- In case of inhalation**
- Make sure there is fresh air; take care in enclosed spaces, silos and pits. The rescuer should not be put in danger
  - Calm the patient

- In case of skin contact**
- Remove contaminated clothing immediately
  - Rinse the affected areas of skin thoroughly under running water
  - Rinse unburnt skin thoroughly with soap and water

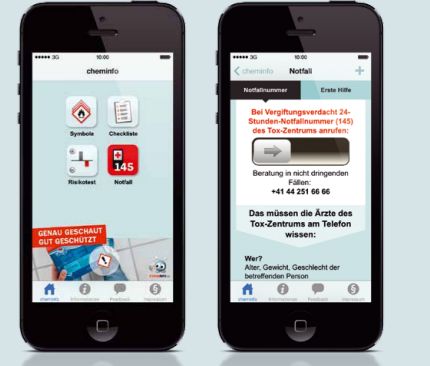
- If splashed in eyes**
- Rinse eyes in running water for at least **10 minutes**; keep eyes open

- In case of unconsciousness**
- Turn the unconscious person onto their side and tilt the head forward
  - Always request medical assistance
  - Do not administer fluids
  - Do not induce vomiting

- Respiratory failure and cardiac arrest**
- Notify the emergency services on 144 (ambulance)
  - Remove any foreign bodies (false teeth, remaining tablets, vomit) from the mouth and throat
  - Loosen any restrictive clothing
  - In case of respiratory failure: Resuscitation using the best-known method (warning: in the case of hydrogen cyanide poisoning [smell of bitter almonds], mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is dangerous for the first aider)
  - In case of cardiac arrest: Cardiac massage by practised first aiders or experts

## Useful advice while on the move: the mobile app

This free app contains everything you need to know about the new hazard symbols and handling chemical products. In addition to explanations of the various symbols, the app provides information about what to do in an emergency and includes a direct-dial button for the 145 emergency number (Swiss Toxicological Information Centre).



**New cheminfo app with direct dial to 145 emergency number in German, French or Italian: download now for free from the app store (Android and Apple).**

**Credits**  
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