

# WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems









WHMIS is a comprehensive national, legislated program that insures your "right to know" about the chemicals you are working with at school or at the job.

The WHMIS program is the result of joint development by the federal and provincial governments, industry and labour. In Ontario, WHMIS is incorporated into the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which states that if you work with materials that may be hazardous to health, information must be provided about these materials to enable you to work safely with them.



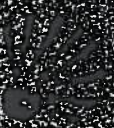













WHMIS provides the information we need to know about the hazardous materials (any chemical that is potentially harmful) we use in the laboratory through a system of:

- Distinctive labels
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Instructional programs

The WHMIS program uses eight distinctive symbols to identify the six classes of hazardous materials.

<p><b>CLASS A</b> Compressed Gas</p>  <p><b>Dangers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if punctured, may rocket and injure</li> <li>if heated or exposed to temperature fluctuations, may explode</li> <li>if contents spill on skin, may cause frostbite</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples:</b> compressed air, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, welding gases, aerosol sprays.</p>	<p><b>CLASS D</b> POISONOUS &amp; INFECTIOUS MATERIAL</p> <p><b>Division 1: Materials causing immediate &amp; serious toxic effects</b></p>  <p>A single dose or exposure can result in nausea, dizziness, headaches, difficult breathing and in some severe cases - death. Skin absorption, swallowing, inhalation and eyes are the possible routes of entry to the body.</p> <p>Do not breath gas or vapours. Avoid skin contact. Wear suitable personal protective equipment.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> hydrogen sulphide, cyanide, tear gas, nerve gas, strychnine.</p>	<p><b>CLASS F</b> DANGEROUSLY REACTIVE MATERIAL</p>  <p>If a material is dangerously reactive, the material safety data sheet will indicate it is unstable under the section called reactivity data.</p> <p>Keep away from heat. Avoid shock, friction or contact with water. Wear proper personal protective equipment.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> fiberglass repair kits, epoxy resins.</p>
<p><b>CLASS B</b> Flammable &amp; Combustible Material</p>  <p><b>Flammable and combustible materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may ignite, explode or spontaneously burst into flame</li> <li>can be a solid, liquid or a gas</li> </ul> <p>Flammable materials will ignite at room temperature while combustible materials must be heated first.</p> <p>Keep away from heat and sources of ignition. No smoking. Avoid static discharges or sparks from impact. Keep container sealed.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> gasoline, diesel fuel, aerosol propellants, metallic sodium.</p>	<p><b>Division 2: Materials causing other toxic effects</b></p>  <p>Materials are toxic but effects are evident only after repeated exposure. Some common effects are allergies, skin, eye or lung irritation, cancer. Routes of entry are inhalation, absorption and swallowing.</p> <p>Do not breath gas or vapours. Avoid skin contact. Wear suitable personal protective equipment. Wash hands thoroughly.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> asbestos fibres, mercury, Saccharin</p>	<p><b>CLASS E</b> CORROSIVE MATERIAL</p>  <p>May cause severe burns (irreversible tissue damage) to skin, eyes or respiratory tract. Most corrosives are liquid but some such as chlorine are a gas.</p> <p>Avoid skin contact. Use recommended respiratory equipment. Wear suitable personal protective equipment.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> sulphuric acid, caustic soda, many cleaners and disinfectants.</p>
<p><b>CLASS C</b> Oxidizing Material</p>  <p>Oxidizers may release oxygen which promotes burning of CLASS B materials. Typically oxidizers themselves are not flammable, but a specific group of oxidizers - organic peroxides - are!</p> <p>Keep away from heat. Store in cool place. Keep away from CLASS B materials. Avoid shock and friction.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> oxygen gas, hydrogen peroxide, bleach.</p>	<p><b>Division 3: Biohazardous infectious material</b></p>  <p>These materials are organisms (germs, viruses and fungi etc.) that cause disease. They also include cultures, concentrates and diagnostic specimens that are suspected of containing the aforementioned</p> <p>Keep container sealed. Seek medical advice if you feel ill. Wear suitable personal protective equipment.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> AIDS, hepatitis B, salmonella</p>	

# Household Hazardous Product Symbols

	Poisonous	Flammable	Explosive	Corrosive
Danger				
				
Warning				
				
Caution				