

Hazard symbols and safety advice

Always read the label and the safety information.

Labels will list the hazardous ingredients, may have a use-by date, and advice on how much to use, how to apply a product and what it can or can't be used for.

The safety information has warnings, safety advice, and safety symbols. Find out what these mean to keep you, your whānau, pets, and our environment safe.

Call 111 in an emergency.

Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for medical advice.

Call the National Poisons Centre on 0800 764 766 for poisons advice.

Read the label

- Take the most care with products that have the words DANGER, HARMFUL, POISON, WARNING or CAUTION on the label.
- DANGER, HARMFUL and POISON are used on the most dangerous products. Products with WARNING or CAUTION are generally safer but can still be harmful.

Follow the safety advice on the label

It causes harm

For example:

- highly flammable liquid and vapour
- may cause respiratory irritation
- causes skin irritation.

How to prevent harm

For example:

- wear gloves or safety glasses
- use only in well-ventilated areas
- keep out of reach of children
- keep cool, protect from sunlight
- keep away from heat.

Emergency or chemical exposure

For example:

- call 111
- do not induce vomiting
- if skin irritation occurs seek medical attention
- wash contaminated clothing before re-use.

Storage and disposal

For example:

- store in a dry place
- store in corrosive-resistant container
- store away from other materials
- avoid release into the environment
- do not allow to enter into drains or waterways.

Understand what the hazard symbols mean



Chemical burns (corrosive)

- Can cause severe burning and skin or eye damage.
- Wear gloves and safety glasses.
- Products that may have this symbol are oven cleaners and drain cleaners.



Flammable products

- These products are flammable and can catch on fire.
- Keep away from direct heat and open flame, for example, lighters.
- Products that may have this symbol are hairspray, turpentine and some paint.



Fire accelerants (oxidisers)

- These products feed fires and explosions.
- Keep well away from heat sources and flammable substances.
- Products that may have this symbol are pool chemicals.



Pressurised containers

- Keep gas bottles and other pressurised containers out of direct sunlight.
- Store them in a well-ventilated area.
- Products that may have this symbol are LPG bottles for barbecues or gas bottles containing CO2 for making soda water.



Serious health effects

- Can cause severe poisoning, and are prohibited for sale to the general public.
- Can be fatal if swallowed or comes into contact with your skin.
- Think about whether you really need to use these products.



Moderate health effects

- May cause a rash, sleepiness or affect your breathing.
- Product that may have this symbol are washing powder and some cleaning agents.



Long-term health effects

- Can cause long-term and serious health issues.
- Products that may have this symbol are petrol and fire-starters.



Environmental harm

- Can harm the environment.
- Follow the instructions carefully to limit their impact.
- Product that may have this symbol are garden sprays and pool chemicals.