

Your Right to Know

Tennessee law and University policy assure employees the right to know about the hazardous materials in their work place. If you need additional information, you may utilize any of the following sources:

- Your supervisor
- The University Occupational Safety and Health Program
- The Tennessee Hazardous Chemical Right to Know Poster in your building
- Your departmental Hazardous Chemical Right-to-Know Notebook
- Environmental Health & Safety (678-4672, 678-2740, or 678-2044)
- The EH&S web page:
www.people.memphis.edu/~ehas

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

The University of Memphis, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.

Recognizing Hazardous Chemicals



The University of Memphis
Office of Environmental Health & Safety
216 Browning Hall
Memphis, Tennessee 38152-3340
(901) 678-4672

What is a Hazardous Chemical?

A hazardous chemical is one which exhibits a physical or health hazard.

Physical Hazards

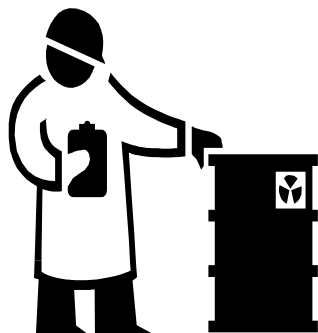
A chemical exhibits a physical hazard when it is classified as

- Combustible liquid
- Compressed gas
- Explosive
- Flammable aerosol, gas, liquid, or solid
- Organic peroxide
- Oxidizer
- Pyrophoric
- Unstable (reactive)
- Water reactive

Health Hazards

A chemical exhibits a health hazard when it acts on specific target organs or is classified as

- Carcinogenic
- Highly toxic
- Toxic
- Corrosive
- Reproductive toxin
- Sensitizer
- Irritant



Determining the Hazards

You do not have to be an expert to determine if a chemical is hazardous; it's as simple as reading the label and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

Read the label and the MSDS before using any potentially hazardous chemical!

Warning Labels

A signal word (**DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**) may be printed on the label of a hazardous chemical. In addition, the label must list the physical and/or health hazards of the chemical and provide information on how to protect yourself and others from the hazards.

Employees are forbidden by law and University policy to remove or deface labels on hazardous material containers that are not empty.

Transferring a hazardous chemical out of the original container (for other than your immediate use) requires labeling the new container with the material name (in English) and the appropriate hazard warnings.

The most dangerous chemical is the one without a label. Never accept an unlabeled container!

Material Safety Data Sheets



In addition to labels, manufacturers or distributors are required to provide you with an MSDS that contains detailed information on the identity of the material, its hazards, and how to protect yourself and others from those hazards. Never use a hazardous chemical without thoroughly reading and understanding the MSDS.

Information and Training

Your department is responsible for providing you with information and training on the hazardous chemicals to which you are exposed under normal operating conditions or in a foreseeable emergency. This responsibility includes maintaining an up-to-date inventory of hazardous chemicals in your work area and making MSDSs readily available to you during all work shifts.