

# Chemical Storage at Home\*



WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) was created to protect workers from chemical exposure; however, many can find many of the same chemicals used in the workplace in our homes.

### Why is it important?

Although these household chemicals do not display the WHMIS symbols that you may be familiar with, they are just as dangerous and can cause every bit as much damage as the ones found in the workplace.

Some common examples include:

- Acetone (nail polish remover)
- Ammonia (window cleaner)
- Caustic soda (used in oven cleaner, tub & tile cleaner, and drain cleaner)

### Key characteristics of chemical at home

Consumer symbols on chemicals found in the home identify the hazard category.

- Warning words or phrases identify the risk level on consumer products
- Further information on the product can often be found on the container or may be available through the supplier, manufacturer or online
- Make sure that the warning information you find applies to the product you have
- Always compare the name of the product and the manufacturer to see if they are the same
- Always follow the instructions for use

### Preventive next steps

As with most chemical use, the best protection is to use a less hazardous substance or method to get the job done. Some examples of this would be using:

- Vinegar and water to clean windows (as opposed to using ammonia-based cleaners)
- Vegetable oil to wash hands after working with paints or greases (instead of solvents)
- Baking soda, salt and water to clean your oven

Finally, consider purchasing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure that you are adequately protected. Remember, household chemicals can do as much damage to you as those found in the workplace.

Nitrile gloves, safety glasses or goggles, dust masks, and a respirator go a long way to protecting you. They are not that expensive; for example, consider using safety glasses or goggles impervious gloves when using household cleaners. PPE will help protect your skin and eyes.

Toxic



Corrosive



Flammable



Explosive



### For additional resources visit:

[WHMIS 2015](#) | WorkSafeBC

[Consumer products and cosmetics](#) | Health Canada

[Eco-friendly cleaning recipes](#)

[Consumer product symbols](#) | Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

