

## Am I at risk from chemicals?

Chemicals such as fertilizers, detergents, oils, disinfectants and plant protection products can play an important role in everyday life on the farm. However, if these chemicals are not used safely, then you could be at risk. The potential of chemicals on your farm to cause harm depends on a number of factors including how dangerous the chemicals may be and how long and how often you are exposed to them. It is also important to remember that chemicals naturally occurring on the farm, such as slurry gases, can also be dangerous.

Chemical exposure can result in health effects such as cancer, birth defects, burns, skin rashes, and lung, liver or kidney disease.

When using chemicals on the farm, it is important to know how dangerous they are. It is also important to ensure that you have the necessary controls in place to keep you, your family and the environment safe.



## Do's and Don'ts when using chemicals

- Do** study the label and the safety data sheet (SDS)
- Do** read and follow the instructions before use
- Do** use any protective clothing recommended
- Do** keep chemicals locked away and out of reach of children
- Do** dispose of empty containers safely
- Don't** transfer chemicals into unmarked containers
- Don't** use flammable chemicals near sources of ignition
- Don't** mix chemicals, unless you are sure they don't react
- Don't** enter area where slurry is being agitated

## Where can I get more information?

- Your local supplier or manufacturer
- The Health and Safety Authority
  - [www.hsa.ie/chemicals](http://www.hsa.ie/chemicals)
  - [chemicals@hsa.ie](mailto:chemicals@hsa.ie)
  - 1890 289 389
- Pesticide Registration and Control Division of DAFM relating to Biocidal and Plant Protection Products  
[www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie)
- National Poisons Information Centre  
[www.poisons.ie](http://www.poisons.ie) in cases of emergency



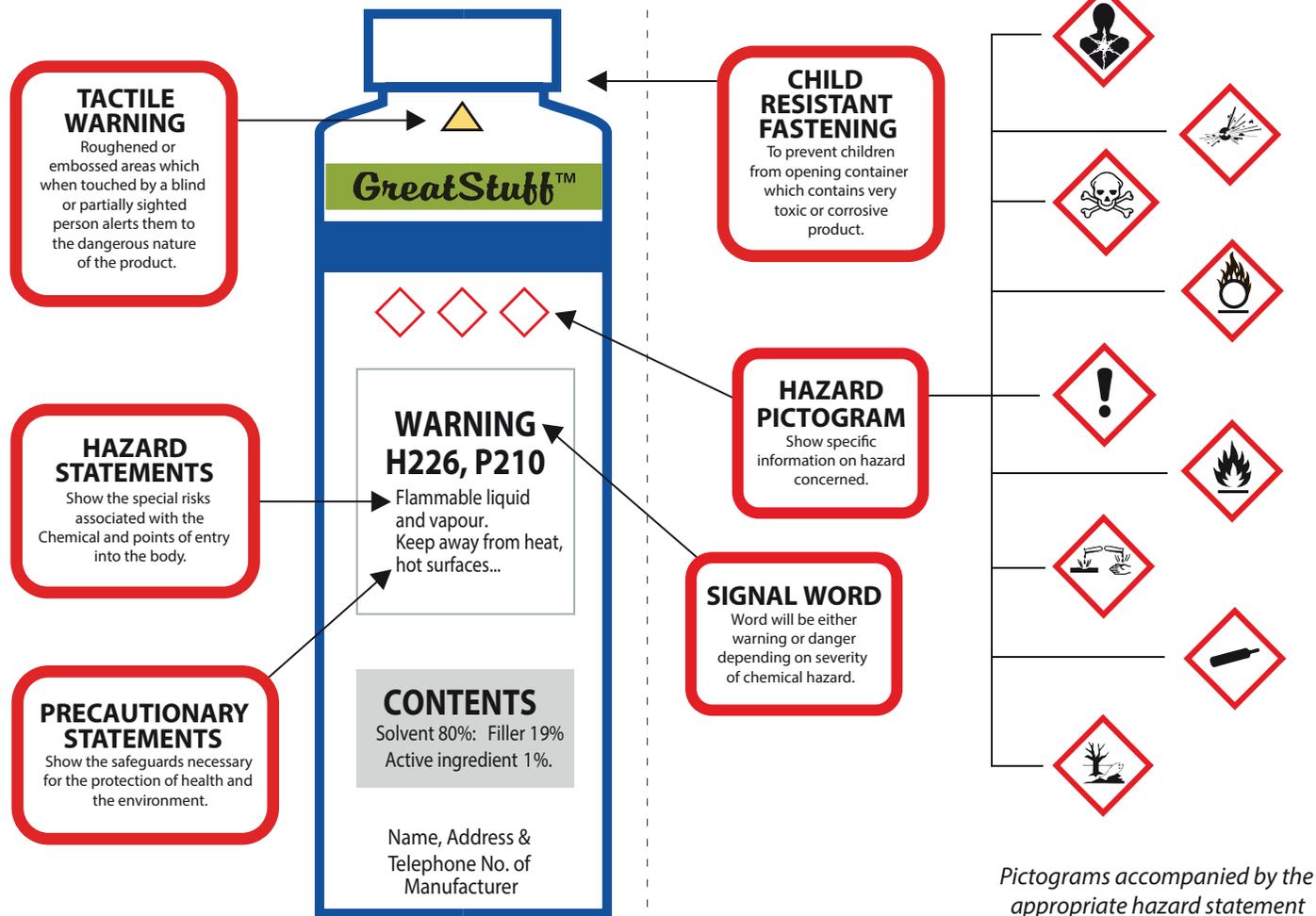
Use  
**Chemicals**  
 **Safely**  
on the Farm

  
HEALTH AND SAFETY  
AUTHORITY



# How do I know if a chemical is dangerous?

The label on the chemical container indicates the dangerous properties of the chemical. Below is an example of a hazard label. Additional information can be found in the safety data sheet (SDS) which is supplied with the chemical (if you don't receive one, ask your supplier). The SDS provides important information about the hazards of the chemical and how to use, handle, store and dispose of it safely.



# What do the hazard pictograms mean?

<b>DANGER</b>		Life threatening even in small amounts and brief exposure.	Handle with care.
		Causes very serious long-term health effects.	Never swallow or inhale.
		Causes skin and eye burns.	Avoid contact with skin.
<b>WARNING</b>		Destruction of metals.	Handle with care.
		Skin and eye irritation. Adverse health effects.	Don't swallow, touch or inhale.
		Damage to ozone layer.	Avoid release.
<b>DANGER</b>		Explosive- sensitive to fire, heat, vibration and friction.	Keep your distance.
		Highly flammable- serious fires if exposed to sparks, flames, heat.	Handle with care. No ignition sources.
		Causes or intensifies fire, increases fire risk.	Wear protective clothing.
<b>WARNING</b>		Container explodes if heated. Very cold liquid burns when touched.	Do not heat.
		Toxic to aquatic environment.	Do not pour down drain.