



# Use Chemicals Safely at Home and in the Garden

**HSA**

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An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority



## Chemicals in the Home and Garden

Chemicals are used every day in our homes and gardens - detergents, air fresheners, reed diffusers and candles, car cleaning and maintenance products, paints and varnishes all help us to maintain our homes, clothes, cars and gardens. However, if these chemicals are not stored and used safely, then you, your family and the environment could be at risk of harm.

## What happens after exposure to a chemical?

Some chemicals found in the home and garden may cause harm depending on how dangerous they are and how long or how often you are exposed to them.

Chemical exposure can occur if products are swallowed or inhaled, or if they come in contact with skin or eyes, resulting in a range of symptoms including burns, irritation, rashes, dizziness and a general feeling of being unwell.

Improper use, storage or disposal of chemicals can also harm the environment.

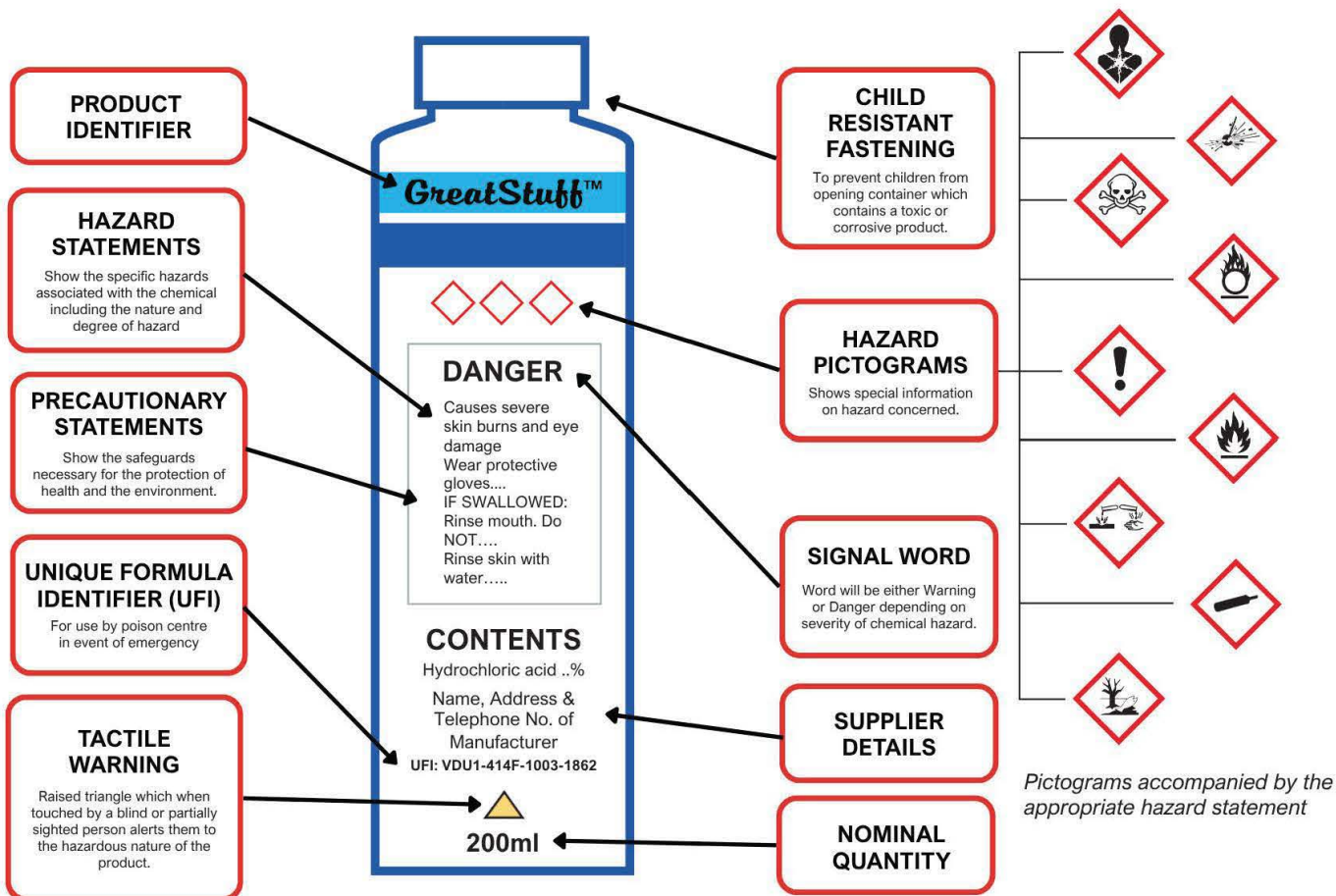


When using chemicals in the home and garden, it is important to know about any potential dangers. Always read the label and use and store the chemical product as advised to keep you, your family and the environment safe.







## How do I know if a chemical is dangerous?

The label on the container should give information about any dangerous properties of the chemical.



# What do the hazard pictograms mean?

DANGER		Life threatening even in small amounts and brief exposure	Handle with care  Never swallow or inhale  Avoid contact with skin
		Causes very serious long-term health effects	
		Causes skin and eye burns	
WARNING		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

DANGER		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
WARNING		Container explodes if heated. Very cold liquid burns when touched.	Do not heat!
		Toxic to aquatic environment	Do not pour down drain



## Dos and Don'ts when using chemicals in the home and garden

- ✓ **Do** read the label.
- ✓ **Do** keep chemicals in their original containers.
- ✓ **Do** read and follow the instructions.
- ✓ **Do** use the recommended amount.
- ✓ **Do** use recommended protective clothing.
- ✓ **Do** dispose of empty containers safely.
- ✓ **Do** keep chemicals locked away, out of reach and out of sight of children.
- ✗ **Don't** transfer chemicals into other containers or water/soft drinks bottles.
- ✗ **Don't** use flammable chemicals near sources of heat or fire.
- ✗ **Don't** mix chemicals.

## Where can I get more information?

- The supplier of the chemical
- The Health and Safety Authority
  - [www.hsa.ie/chemicals](http://www.hsa.ie/chemicals)
  - [chemicals@hsa.ie](mailto:chemicals@hsa.ie)
  - **0818 289 389** (between 9:00am and 3:00pm, Monday to Friday)
- Pesticide Registration Division and the Pesticide Controls Division of DAFM relating to Biocidal and Plant Protection Products  
[www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie)
- In cases of emergency:  
National Poisons Information Centre  
**(01) 809 2166** (between 8:00am and 10:00pm, 7 days a week)