

# Warning Words + Signal Words = Chemical Safety at Home

Almost every home ...

contains hazardous chemicals.

Read product labels to find out!

## Warning Words: What's the Danger?

Hazardous chemicals are classified into six main types. Each type is represented by a symbol and one or more special warning words.

- ▶ **Flammable:** ignites easily and burns rapidly
- ▶ **Corrosive:** damages living tissue on contact
- ▶ **Explosive:** produces a sudden release of pressure, gas, and heat
- ▶ **Irritant:** causes inflammation at the point of contact
- ▶ **Sensitizer:** repeated exposure may cause irritation or illness
- ▶ **Toxic:** harmful when ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin

## Signal Words: How Dangerous?

Signal words are required by law to appear on labels of hazardous products.

- ▶ **CAUTION or WARNING:** mildly to moderately hazardous; can cause temporary adverse health effects, such as skin irritation or vomiting
- ▶ **DANGER:** more severely hazardous; can cause serious health effects, such as skin burns or stomach ulcers
- ▶ **POISON:** hazardous substances defined as highly toxic; used with the signal word **DANGER** and the skull-and-crossbones symbol.
- ▶ No signal word (no warning): relatively nonhazardous

Get free readings and activities on chemical safety at [www.ccmu.org/healthrich/](http://www.ccmu.org/healthrich/)



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