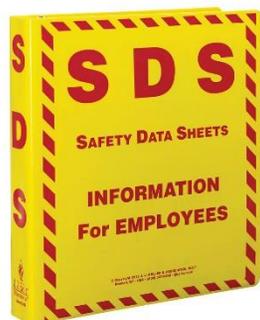


## Safety Data Sheets

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) or Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) come with every chemical. They are documents that contain detailed safety and health information about the chemical.



**SDSs/MSDSs are required by law to be accessible where chemicals are used.**

SDSs/MSDSs contain information about:

- Safe storage of the chemical
- Safety controls, such as ventilation, necessary for working with the chemical
- Protective equipment needed while working
- Hazards posed by the chemical
- First aid for chemical exposure
- What to do if the chemical is spilled
- Health effects seen with exposure.

The SDSs are new versions of the MSDSs. The SDSs have a set format for the order the information is provided in; the information in the MSDSs can have any order the supplier wanted.

Make sure you know where the SDSs/MSDSs are located and read through them before you work with a new chemical.



Make sure you know:

1. What you're working with.
2. How to stay safe while working with it.
3. Where you can find more information.

**When in doubt, ask questions!**



### Environmental Health & Safety

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# CHEMICAL SAFETY



Environmental Health and Safety



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
start something **big**

## Chemicals

Every year workers are injured, and sometimes killed, as a result of chemical exposure. These incidents can happen when workers are:

- **Unprepared** for the hazards of the chemicals they are working with, or
- **Unaware** that the products they are working with are hazardous.

When you work with chemicals, or products that contain chemicals, it is vitally important that you know the answers to the following questions:

1. What you are working with?
2. What do you need to do to work safely with it?
3. Where can you find more information if you need it?

Having those three answers will help keep you safe.

## Training

Before working with any chemicals you must be trained so you can answer the three questions.

If you haven't been trained, or don't have enough information to stay safe, make sure you contact your supervisor or Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) for more information before you start to work.

When it comes to working with chemicals, what you know could save your life.

**ASK MORE  
QUESTIONS**

## Globally Harmonized System (GHS)

The GHS is an international system for the classification and labeling of chemicals which the US has adopted.

### Labels

Container labels should have answers to the first two questions on them. Any product purchased after June 2015 must have labels that cover six required topics. Label must contain, in any order:

1. Chemical or product name
2. GHS pictogram(s)
3. A Harmonized signal word
4. Hazard statement(s)
5. Precautionary statement
6. Manufacturer name and address

Some aspects of the labels are described in more detail below.

### GHS Pictograms

There are nine pictograms that can appear on labels to identify hazards.



## Signal Words

These are used to generally indicate how hazardous a substance is. There are only two words, and only one can appear per product:

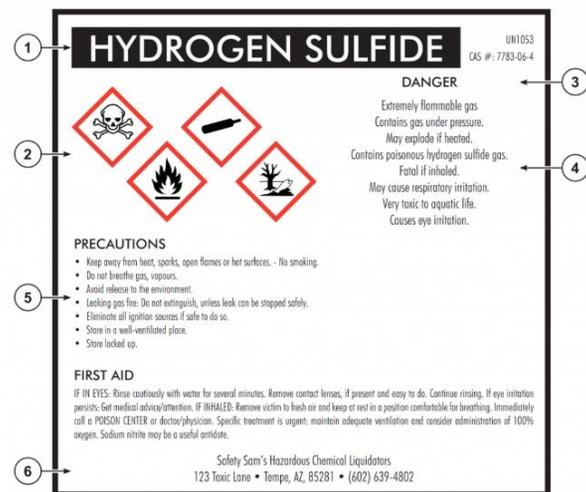
- **Danger:** used for severe hazards
- **Warning:** used for less severe hazards

## Hazard and Precautionary Statements

The hazard statements describe the type of hazards presented by the product.

The Precautionary statement describes the recommended storage and/or handling of the product.

## GHS Label Example



**The information found on the label and in the Safety Data Sheet will keep you safe while working with chemicals.**

## Chemical Storage

Make sure to store chemicals according to the manufacturer recommendations.

**NEVER transfer any chemicals into food or beverage containers.**