

Under current legislation anyone using a substance which could cause ill health or physical harm must be made aware of the dangers involved. Posters showing these dangers, the relevant hazchem signage and the precautionary measures required when using these products safely need to be prominently displayed on sites.

Since 2009, new international symbols have been gradually replacing the European symbols. Some of them are similar to the European symbols, but there is no single word describing the hazard. Always read the hazard statement on the packaging and the safety data sheet from the supplier.

COSHH - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW		
The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002		
Under COSHH regulations, all persons at work should know the relevant safety precautions to take so as not to endanger themselves or others through exposure to substances hazardous to health.		
COSHH Symbol	Description of Hazard	Recommended Safety Precautions
	HARMFUL May cause Irritation and 2 types of cancer if inhaled.	1. Avoid breathing in dusts, fumes, mists, vapours or gases. 2. Do not swallow. 3. Do not get in eyes or on skin. 4. Do not get on clothing.
	IRRITANT May cause Irritation of the skin, eyes, nose and throat.	1. Avoid breathing in dusts, fumes, mists, vapours or gases. 2. Do not swallow. 3. Do not get in eyes or on skin. 4. Do not get on clothing.
	TOXIC / VERY TOXIC May cause death if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.	1. Avoid breathing in dusts, fumes, mists, vapours or gases. 2. Do not swallow. 3. Do not get in eyes or on skin. 4. Do not get on clothing.
	EXPLOSIVE May explode if heated, shocked or exposed to flame.	1. Do not heat, shock or expose to flame. 2. Do not store in a confined space. 3. Do not use near open flames or other sources of ignition.
	CORROSIVE May cause severe damage to the skin, eyes and respiratory tract.	1. Avoid breathing in dusts, fumes, mists, vapours or gases. 2. Do not swallow. 3. Do not get in eyes or on skin. 4. Do not get on clothing.
	OXIDISING May cause or intensify fire or explosion.	1. Do not use near open flames or other sources of ignition. 2. Do not store in a confined space.
	HIGHLY FLAMMABLE May catch fire easily.	1. Do not use near open flames or other sources of ignition. 2. Do not store in a confined space.
	EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE May catch fire very easily.	1. Do not use near open flames or other sources of ignition. 2. Do not store in a confined space.
	HAZARDOUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT May be harmful to aquatic life and the environment.	1. Do not spill or discharge into the environment. 2. Do not use near water bodies.

The safe packaging, storage and disposal of COSHH related products on sites is essential and must be strictly managed and controlled. Below shows a few examples of how this can be applied. A specific COSHH store with its contents clearly displayed on the entrance door.



Receptacles (COSHH waste station) for the safe disposal of COSHH related materials and packaging etc

