Science 14

Unit A: Properties of matter

Labels decide how a chemical is handled

Two clear liquids on one bench

- A clear liquid in a lab bottle and a clear liquid in a bathroom jug can look the same from across the room.
- Read the product name and the hazard picture before anyone opens the cap.

Three names on a label

- WHMIS is the workplace system that ties a pictogram to a safety data sheet.
- A household bottle uses a consumer product symbol as its hazard picture.

Key terms

WHMIS

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, the Canadian workplace system of labels and safety data sheets for hazardous products.

consumer product symbol

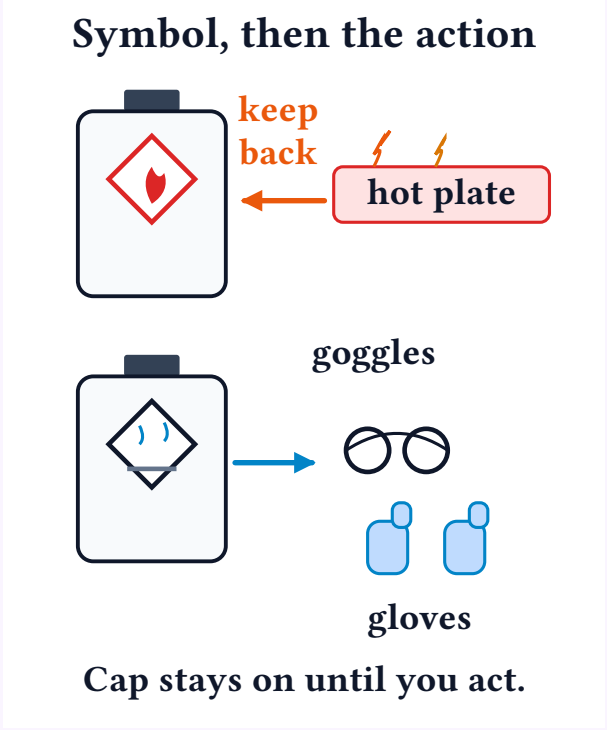
A hazard picture on a household container that warns about fire, corrosion, a sudden reaction, or a health effect.

safety data sheet

The workplace sheet for one product that lists hazards, protective equipment, storage, first aid, spill response and disposal.

WHMIS symbols and actions

- A flame pictogram means the product can ignite, so it stays away from sparks and hot plates.
- A corrosion pictogram means the product can damage skin or metal, so gloves and eye protection come on before the cap turns.



A bleach jug card, worked in order

- The card shows the product name, a corrosion pictogram and a health warning.
- The matching sheet says gloves, eye protection, a ventilated space, and disposal with plenty of water only if the local rule allows that rinse.

A paint thinner label

- The card shows a flame pictogram and the words keep away from ignition sources.
- The safety data sheet also names the cabinet where the closed container sits.

A new corrosive cleaner card

- The card shows a corrosion pictogram and the product name ‘descaler’.
- Name the gloves or goggles, and name the safety data sheet for disposal.

Lab labelling habits

- Every later mixture, solution and acid in this unit starts with the same label reading.
- A partner’s suggestion is useful after you have both pointed at the symbol on the card.