

LAB SAFETY AND THE RIGHT-TO-KNOW (RTK) LAW

It's your right to know what
kind of chemicals you are
working with in a lab!!!

Getting the Word Out...

A hazard communication is:

- A way to inform you about possible chemical hazards in the workplace.
- Useful to protect you against harmful materials.

What's the Purpose??

The Right-to-Know Law is a hazard communication that:

- Provides information and training about chemical hazards from your employer.
- Provides information on how to get help or more information on chemical hazards.

Why Do You Have to Know?

- ❖ Every day 25 million American workers are exposed to chemical hazards.
- ❖ Many of today's manufactured chemicals threaten your safety and your health.
- ❖ SO... you have the **RIGHT TO KNOW** what you are dealing with and how to handle it responsibly. It is **YOUR** choice whether or not you proceed safely!!!

Signal Words

Read the labels on the containers and look for signal words telling you the degree of hazard present.

The three signal words are:

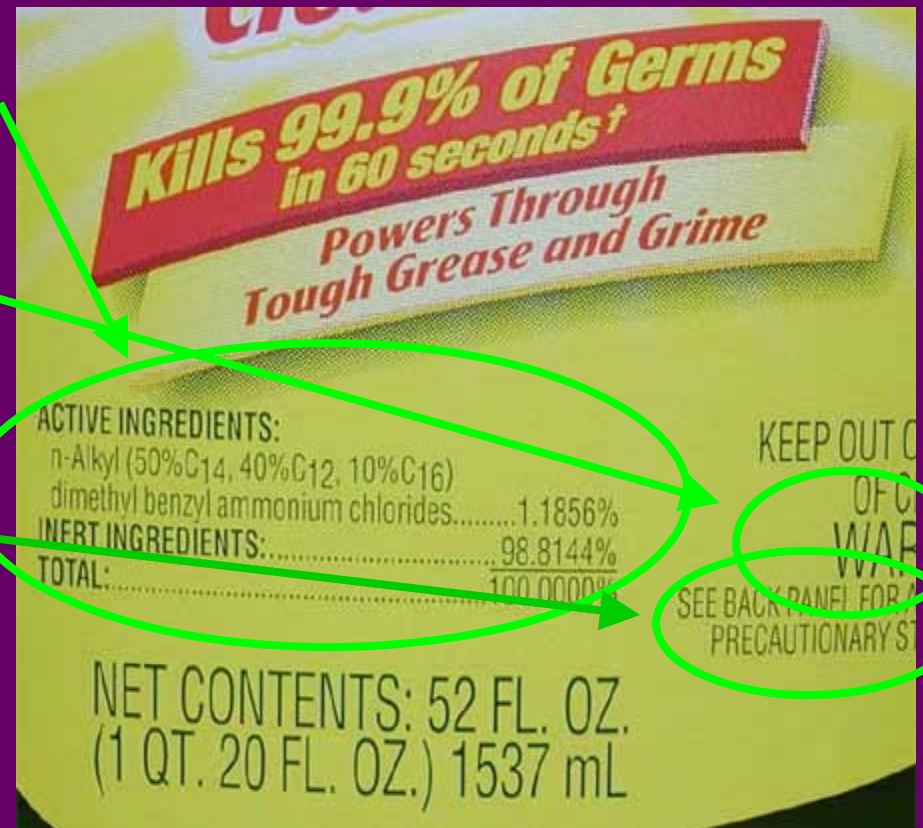
CAUTION
WARNING
DANGER



Chemical Warning Labels

Chemical warning labels may have the following information listed:

- Identity of the chemical
- Signal word
- Hazard Statement
- Precautions
- Fire, Spill and leak instructions



Chemical Warning Labels

Chemical warning labels may have the following information listed:

- Instructions in case of exposure
- Antidotes
- Notes to physician
- Handling and storage instructions



Chemical Warning Labels

Let's put this into practice!!

Pass around the household products.

Can you identify the important safety info on the warning labels?

Write down which types of information you find on the household products.

Material Safety Data Sheets

A Material Safety Data Sheet (called MSDS for short) gives you detailed information on a chemical and its hazards.

Material Safety Data Sheets

The following information is found on an MSDS form:

- Identity and Ingredients
- Physical and chemical characteristics (fire, explosion information)
- Physical Hazards
- Health Hazards
- Emergency and first-aid procedures
- Special protection information

Material Safety Data Sheets

MSDS forms can be found at these locations here at Delcastle High School:

- Main Office
- Nurse's Office/Wellness Center
- Maintenance/Custodians
- Science classrooms
- Shops

Material Safety Data Sheets

Let's look at some examples of MSDS forms.

Let's review this safety info by completing the worksheet with questions on MSDS forms.