

Read the symbol before you open the tin.

Nine symbols on the label, and each one tells you what the product can do to you. The safety data sheet and the COSHH assessment tell you how to work with it.



Explosive

Can explode or decompose violently.



Flammable

Catches fire easily, as a liquid, vapour, gas, aerosol or solid.



Oxidising

Supplies oxygen, so can start a fire or make one burn more fiercely.



Gas under pressure

May explode if heated. Refrigerated gas can cause cold burns.



Corrosive

Burns skin, causes serious eye damage and can corrode metal.



Acute toxicity

Fatal or toxic in small amounts, swallowed, breathed in or on the skin.



Health hazard, hazardous to the ozone layer

Harmful. Irritates skin, eyes or airways. May cause skin allergy or drowsiness. Harms the ozone layer.



Serious health hazard

Can cause asthma, cancer, genetic or organ damage, or harm fertility.



Hazardous to the environment

Toxic to aquatic life, often long lasting. Keep it out of drains.

Not sure what it is? Ask before you use it.