**Understanding Household Hazard Symbols**

Hazard symbols are on the labels of many products in and around your home and garage, like cooking spray, cleaning products, paint thinners, drain cleaners and windshield washer fluid.

Hazard symbols have three parts:

1. [the picture](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/security-securite/home-maison/chemicals-chimiques-eng.php#hazard_symbols_pictures)
2. [the frame](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/security-securite/home-maison/chemicals-chimiques-eng.php#hazard_symbol_frames)
3. [the caution (signal) words underneath the image](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/security-securite/home-maison/chemicals-chimiques-eng.php#caution_words)

**1. Hazard symbol pictures**

The **picture** tells you the **type of danger**:

EXPLOSIVE
The container can explode if heated or punctured. Flying pieces of metal or plastic from the container can cause serious injury, especially to your eyes.



CORROSIVE
The product can burn your skin or eyes. If swallowed, it can damage your throat and stomach.



FLAMMABLE
The product or its fumes will catch fire easily if it is near heat, flames, or sparks. Rags used with this product may begin to burn on their own.



POISON
If you swallow, lick, or in some cases, breathe in the chemical, you could become very sick or die.

**2. Hazard symbol frames**

The **shape of the frame** around the hazard symbol tells you **what part of the product is dangerous**:



If it's a **triangle**, it means the **container** is dangerous.



If it's an **octagon**, it means the **contents** are dangerous.

**3. Signal words**

The **signal word(s)** underneath the hazard symbol explain the **degree of risk**:



**Symbol -**

**Signal word - DANGER EXPLOSIVE**

**Signal words:**

* **CAUTION** means temporary injury may result. Death may occur with extreme exposure.
* **DANGER** means may cause temporary or permanent injury, or death.
* **EXTREME DANGER** means exposure to very low amounts may cause death or serious injury.

taken from: <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca> Risks, Safety and Emergencies