

TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK

What are some hazardous products you work with every day?

WHAT IS WHMIS?

WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) provides information on the safe use of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials can be in the form of solids, liquids, or gases that can harm people, property, or environment.

WHMIS requires that all hazardous materials are labelled. These labels alert workers to hazards and safe handling instructions.

WHMIS 2015 IS NOW IN EFFECT!

Aimed at providing global harmony, WHMIS 2015 aligns Canada with other countries. It mainly impacts hazard classification and requirements for labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). It does not change the roles and responsibilities of employers, workers, and suppliers.

WHAT IS THE SDS?

All worksites with hazardous products are required by law to have SDSs, also known as Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). These sheets follow a consistent, user-friendly format to communicate chemical hazards. Important safety information such as first aid, firefighting measures, required personal protection, and handling spills, are found on these SDSs.

If you work with any hazardous products, you have the **right to know** the dangers it presents and how to respond to these hazards.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOUR SAFETY DATA SHEETS?

SDSs should always be located as close to the hazardous work area as possible in case there is a need for emergency measures.

If you ever work with an unfamiliar chemical or substance, **REMEMBER** to check the MSDSs or SDSs first.

CONTROLS

Employer Responsibilities:

- Track and keep a list of all hazardous products;
- Display this list in convenient work areas;
- Provide in-house training and WHMIS for the required workers;
- Provide safe work procedures for the use and handling of hazardous products;
- Make available up to date labels and SDSs; and
- Ensure control measures are in place to protect the health and safety of workers.

Worker Responsibilities:

- Always check for a label on products before use;
- Read all labels and SDSs to ensure you understand the hazards;
- Follow safe work procedures for handling hazardous products; and
- Notify your supervisor about problems with labels or SDSs.

NEVER use a product that is not labelled or unreadable.

Resources: CCOHS, OSH Answers Fact Sheets

WSCC sponsored online training available:
[WSCC/CCOHS WHMIS 2015](http://www.wccc.ca/whmis2015)