

## QUICK REFERENCE

# WHMIS 2015 Quick Reference Card

Essential reference for GHS hazard pictograms, hazard classification categories, SDS sections, and label requirements under WHMIS 2015.

WHMIS 2015

GHS

Hazardous Materials

SDS

Worker Training

Labels

WHMIS 2015 aligns Canada's hazard communication system with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Every Ontario employer must ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are accessible, and workers are trained before handling any controlled product. This reference card covers the essentials.

## GHS Hazard Pictograms

*Eight standardized symbols identify the nature of hazardous products.*

### Physical Hazards

- **Explosive** — Unstable substances that may decompose, react, or polymerize
- **Flammable** — Easily ignitable materials and gases at low temperatures
- **Oxidizing** — Substances that cause or intensify fire through oxidation
- **Compressed Gas** — Gases stored under pressure

### Health & Environmental Hazards

- **Corrosive** — Causes visible tissue damage or material corrosion on contact
- **Toxic** — Poisonous if inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through skin
- **Health Hazard** — Causes respiratory sensitization, eye damage, or systemic effects
- **Environmental Hazard** — Harmful to aquatic life and the environment

## Key Hazard Classification Categories

- Acute Toxicity (Oral, Dermal, Inhalation) — Categories 1–5
- Skin Corrosion/Irritation — Categories 1–2
- Eye Irritation — Categories 2A, 2B
- Respiratory and Skin Sensitization — Category 1
- Germ Cell Mutagenicity, Carcinogenicity, Reproductive Toxicity — Categories 1–2
- Specific Target Organ Toxicity (STOT) — Categories 1–2
- Flammability, Explosiveness, Oxidizing Properties, Corrosiveness

## Safety Data Sheet (SDS) — 16 Required Sections

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### Sections 1–8

- 1. Identification (product name, manufacturer, emergency number)
- 2. Hazard Identification (classification and warnings)
- 3. Composition and Ingredients
- 4. First-Aid Measures
- 5. Fire-Fighting Measures
- 6. Accidental Release Measures
- 7. Handling and Storage
- 8. Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

### Sections 9–16

- 9. Physical and Chemical Properties
- 10. Stability and Reactivity
- 11. Toxicological Information
- 12. Ecological Information
- 13. Disposal Considerations
- 14. Transport Information
- 15. Regulatory Information
- 16. Other Information

## Required Label Elements

*Every hazardous product must display all of the following on its label.*

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- Product identifier (name of the hazardous product)
- Supplier identifier and emergency phone number
- Hazard pictogram(s) appropriate to the hazard class
- Signal word: **Danger** (higher risk) or **Warning** (lower risk)
- Hazard statement(s) describing the nature and degree of hazard
- Precautionary statement(s) for safe handling, storage, and disposal

## Employer Compliance Requirements

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- SDS must be provided in both English and French
- SDS must be accessible to workers before first use of any product
- All workers must be trained on WHMIS — initial and updated training required
- Labels must never be removed, covered, or defaced
- Workplace labels required for decanted or transferred products

***WHMIS is not optional — it is the law. Every worker who handles or works near hazardous materials must be trained, every product must be labelled, and every SDS must be accessible. No exceptions.***