



FACT SHEET 7.6

READING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL LABELS AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS)

Hobby farms commonly use small amounts of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials are defined as chemical, biological or physical substances that can cause harm to people, animals, and/or the environment. This may include: fuel and lubricants for equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, medications and cleaning solutions.

If incorrectly used or mishandled, hazardous materials can be a source of surface water pollution. Reading and understanding the information provided on product labels is essential for the safe and effective use of these materials and to help prevent unwanted health and water quality impacts.

The following provides guidance on how to read hazardous material product labels and how to identify their hazards*.



- 1. PRODUCT IDENTIFIER** - Includes the chemical name to identify the product.
- 2. SIGNAL WORD** - Indicates the relative level of severity of the hazard the chemical presents, "Warning" is used for less severe hazards and "Danger" is used for more severe hazards.
- 3. PICTOGRAM OR HAZARD WARNING SYMBOL** - Standard symbols used to quickly convey specific information about chemical hazards. Hazard warning symbols found on labels provide a quick reference to the dangers of a product, and precautions to be taken when storing and handling it.
- 4. HAZARD STATEMENT** - Describes the nature of the hazard.
- 5. PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENT** - Describes measures to prevent adverse effects from exposure, or improper handling of the chemical. The four types of precautionary statements include chemical information related to prevention, response procedures, storage and disposal.
- 6. CONTACT INFORMATION** - Name, address and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.

*Note that pesticides have their own labeling system and are often labeled differently than hazardous materials.

Sample Hazardous Materials Label

1 **SUPERMAX
DEGREASER**
..... Batch No. 1234 or CAS #: 12345-67-8

2 **DANGER**

3  

4 **MAY CAUSE
FIRE OR EXPLOSION
HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED**

5 Keep away from heat. Wear protective gloves, safety goggles, fire/flammable resistant clothing. Store locked up in a cool, dry place. Aerosol containers should not be punctured, compacted in home trash compactors or incinerated. Empty containers may be disposed of through normal waste management options. Dispose of all waste product, absorbents, and other materials in accordance with applicable Federal, state and local regulations.

..... **FIRST AID**
IF ON SKIN: xxxxx
IF IN EYES: xxxxx
IF INHALED: xxxxx
IF SWALLOWED: xxxxx

..... **FIRE**
IN CASE OF FIRE: xxxxx

6 **XYZ CHEMICAL CO.**
123 STREET
ANYTOWN, STATE 01234
(555) 555-5555

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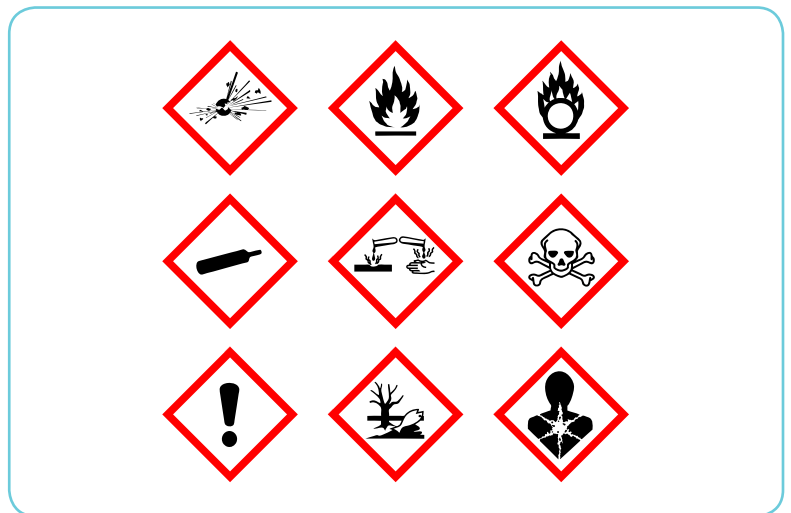
DID YOU KNOW?

A hazardous material is a chemical, biological or physical substance that has the ability to cause harm to people, animals and/or the environment. A hazardous material that can no longer be used for its intended purpose is called a hazardous waste. It is a material that has been spent, used up or contaminated beyond its ability to be used.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS)

For more detailed information on a chemical, you can refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). It's a good idea to have a SDS for all hazardous chemicals you use and store on your hobby farm. SDSs contain similar, but more detailed information about a product than the label and includes:

- product identification
- hazard identification
- composition/information on ingredients
- first-aid measures
- fire-fighting measures
- accidental release measures
- handling and storage information
- exposure controls/personal protection
- physical and chemical properties
- stability and reactivity
- toxicological information
- ecological information
- disposal considerations
- transport information
- regulatory information



BEFORE BUYING

Always read the label of a product before purchasing. Consider using the safest option that will get the job done and look for products that are non-toxic, biodegradable, and contain no hazardous ingredients, if available. However, remember that even these products can impact water quality if not handled properly. Always purchase the least amount necessary to get the job done. Storing and disposing of unused chemicals increases the risk of exposure and leaks.

READING YOUR CHEMICAL LABEL AND UNDERSTANDING ITS RISKS AND WARNINGS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROPER HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MANAGEMENT. THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTS YOU USE, THE BETTER EQUIPPED YOU ARE FOR NOT ONLY PREVENTING SPILLS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, BUT FOR EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY DEALING WITH AN EMERGENCY SHOULD ONE OCCUR.



CAUTION!

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) should be kept for all chemicals utilized on your hobby farm and be easily available in the event of an emergency such as a spill or fire.