

## But I don't use chemicals!

Chemicals are used everywhere

- in small companies
- in the home

**Are there detergents, bleaches, drain cleaners, weedkillers, disinfectants, in your home?**

**Do you use degreasers, adhesives, cleaning agents, paints, etc. in your work?**

## YOU ARE USING CHEMICALS!

### Dangers of chemicals

Chemicals are essential for everyday life, in the home and in *work*. But they can be dangerous.

***If not used correctly*** they can:

- catch fire
- cause burns
- damage your health
- cause environmental damage

### How do I know if a chemical is dangerous?

By law, all products containing dangerous chemicals must have a label. The label tells you about the dangers of the product and how to use it safely.

The poster on the other side of this will help you to understand the information on the label.

**Pin it up in your home or workplace**

### Do's and Don'ts when using chemicals

- Do** study the label
- Do** read and follow instructions before use
- Do** use any protective clothing which is recommended
- Do** keep chemicals out of the reach of children
- Don't** transfer chemicals into unmarked containers
- Don't** use flammable chemicals near sources of ignition
- Don't** throw aerosols onto fires
- Don't** mix chemicals unless you are sure they don't react

### Where do I get more information?

- 1 your **local supplier**
- 2 The **manufacturer**  
(name, address and telephone number on the bottle)
- 3 The **Health & Safety Authority**  
will advise about chemicals in the workplace and about the laws relating to chemicals

Address: Health & Safety Authority  
10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2  
Telephone: (01) 614 7000  
Fax: (01) 614 7020  
Website: <http://www.hsa.ie>

More information on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations are available on the Authority's website (legislation under European Communities Act 1972)

- 4 The **Poisons Information Centre**  
provides information to doctors and the general public on the treatment of poisoning or about accidental contact with chemicals

Address: **The National Poisons Information Centre,**  
PO Box 1297,  
Beaumont Hospital,  
Beaumont Road,  
Dublin 9.  
Telephone: (01) 837 9966  
Fax: (01) 837 6982

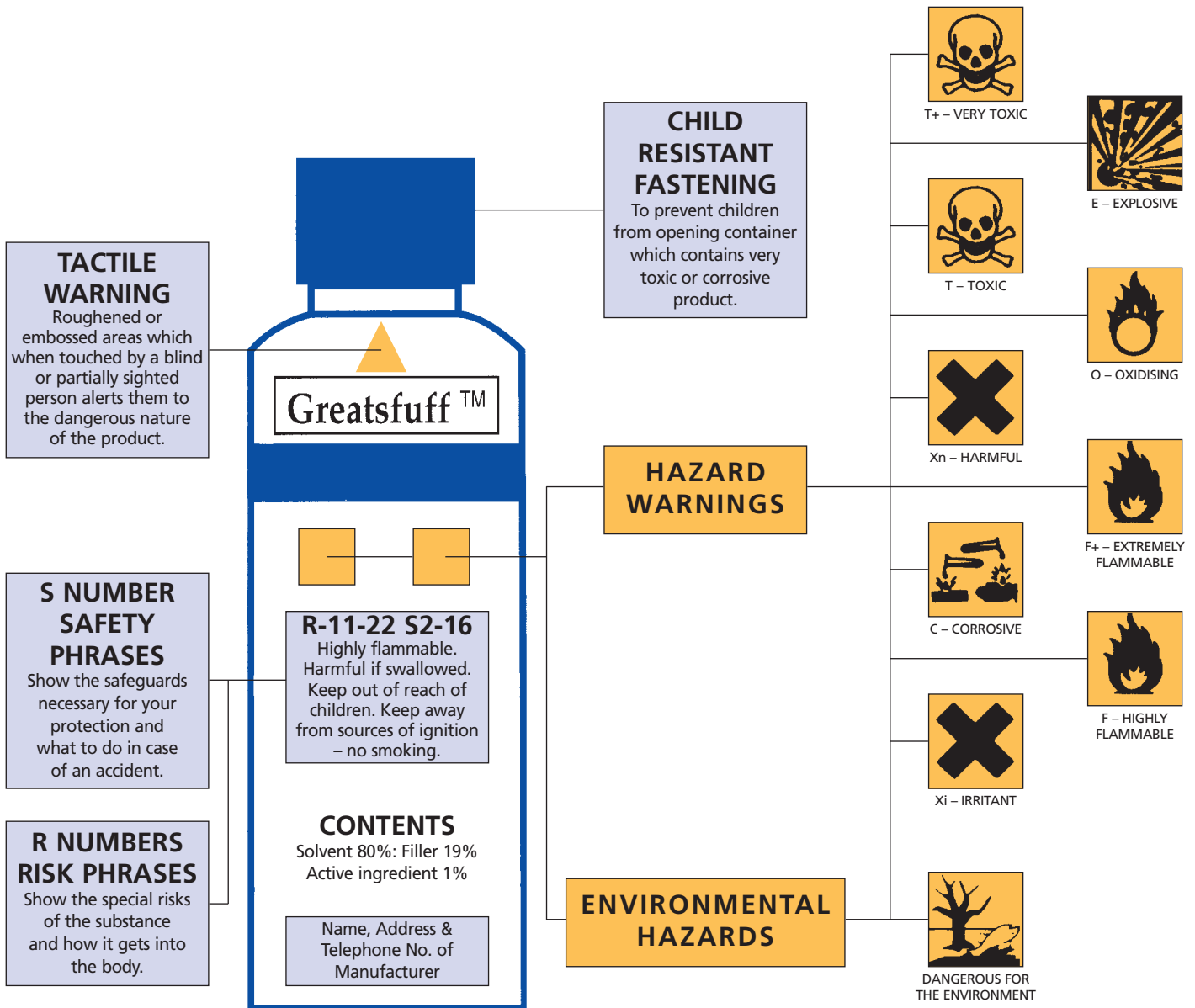
© Health & Safety Authority 6/02/SIP



WHAT THE LABELS TELL YOU!  
READ THEM FOR YOUR

# Health and Safety

The container of all chemical products should have a label.  
The label will tell you all you need to know to be able to use the chemical safely.



**REMEMBER! DO DISPOSE OF EMPTY CONTAINERS SAFELY**

Some common technical terms which may sometimes be on labels

- Sensitisation**      May cause an allergy (allergic dermatitis or asthma)
- Carcinogen**        May cause cancer
- Harmful or toxic for reproduction**      May cause fertility problems or damage the developing baby