

WHMIS

Do you remember what WHMIS stands for?

Workplace
Hazardous
Materials
Information
System

What does WHMIS do?

1. It describes the dangers of the hazardous products you use on the job.
2. It tells you how you can protect yourself from these dangers.
3. It makes your employer responsible for providing an education program related to your specific workplace.

How do I get Information on hazards?

Information is a tool which can be used by the employer and the workers to protect their health and safety on the job. WHMIS ensures that this information goes from the producer or supplier of a hazardous material to the employer, and from the employer to the worker. This information is transferred to you in three important ways: **WHMIS labels**, **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)**, and **worker education** (how to read and use the label and MSDS).

WHMIS Labels must be found on all controlled products in the workplace and provide basic information about hazardous materials. There are two basic types:

Supplier Labels

- Found on any container brought into the workplace that is controlled by WHMIS regulations
- Have distinct colour and slash-mark border
- Must contain:

i)	Product identifier	v)	Risk phrase
ii)	Supplier identifier	vi)	Precautions
iii)	MSDS referral	vii)	First Aid Instructions
iv)	Hazard Symbol		

Workplace labels

- Found on materials produced and used in the workplace or decanted from labelled container
- May vary considerably in appearance and wording but must have:

i)	Product identifier
ii)	Safe handling instructions
iii)	MSDS Referral

Material Safety Data Sheet

- An MSDS for each hazardous material present in the workplace must be available to all workers exposed
- Must contain information on:

i)	Hazardous Ingredients	vi)	Reactivity Data
ii)	Preparation Information	vii)	Toxicological Properties
iii)	Product Information	viii)	Preventative Measures
iv)	Physical Data	ix)	First Aid Measures
v)	Fire or Explosion Hazard		

Worker Education

General

- purpose of WHMIS, understanding and using labels and MSDS

Specific

- deals with actual hazardous materials present in the workplace and work routines and emergency procedures used in that workplace.