

Symbol Shapes



caution



warning



danger

These shapes and their colours indicate how dangerous the substances are.

All hazardous materials have a label showing a hazard symbol. The **hazard symbol** has a safety warning and a shape to indicate how hazardous the material is. You may have already seen these labels on fluids you find at home, such as bleach or oven cleaner. There are two separate pieces of information for each symbol. The first is the shape of the symbol, shown in the *infoBIT*. A yellow triangle means “caution,” an orange diamond means “warning,” and a red octagon means “danger.”

The second piece of information is a picture inside the shape that indicates the type of hazard. There are seven pictures of common hazards shown in Figure 1.2.



**Figure 1.2** These pictures tell you what type of hazard to watch out for.

Figure 1.3 shows some of the WHMIS symbols. **WHMIS** stands for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. This is another system of easy-to-see special symbols on hazardous materials. These symbols were designed to help protect people who use potentially harmful materials at work.



**Figure 1.3** WHMIS symbols