



## **Difference Between Hazard and Risk (Infographic)**

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This infographic will help you understand the difference between hazard and risk, two terms that are often incorrectly used as synonyms. A hazard is something that has the potential to cause harm, while risk is the likelihood of harm taking place based on exposure to that hazard.

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# HAZARD VS. RISK



## HAZARD

is the potential to cause harm



when crossing a road, cars are a **hazard**

## RISK

is the likelihood of harm taking place



when crossing a highway, the risk of an accident is **high**

when crossing a country road, the risk of an accident is **low**

## HAZARD

in foods can be...



**physical**  
for instance pieces of bones in fish products



**biological**  
for instance harmful bacteria, viruses or parasites



**chemical**  
for instance mercury in fish or acrylamide in starchy food

## RISK

is determined by the exposure to a hazard



**how much**  
i.e., quantity



**how long**  
i.e., duration



**how severe**  
i.e., intensity



**how often**  
i.e., frequency

## Example: Salmonella in egg is a hazard

if eaten **raw**, there is a risk of salmonella being present



the chance of exposure is **high**

the **risk** of food poisoning is **high**

correct food handling, for instance **cooking thoroughly**, kills Salmonella bacteria



the chance of exposure is **low**

the **risk** of food poisoning is **low**



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