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Household Products

The products you use for cleaning, carpentry, auto repair, gardening, and many other household uses can contain ingredients that can harm you, your family, and the environment. These include :

- Oven and drain cleaners
- Cleaning and disinfecting products [<https://medlineplus.gov/cleaningdisinfectingandsanitizing.html>] , including bleach and antibacterial cleaners
- Laundry powder
- Floor polish
- Paint thinners, strippers, and removers
- Pesticides [<https://medlineplus.gov/pesticides.html>]
- Grease and rust removers
- Motor oil and fuel additives
- Arts and crafts supplies

Toxic substances in these products can cause harm if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin. People respond to toxic substances in different ways. At high doses, a toxic substance might cause birth defects or other serious problems, including brain damage or death.

To avoid problems, keep products in the containers they come in and use them exactly as the label says. Follow label directions or get medical help if you swallow or inhale them or get them on your skin.

Environmental Protection Agency

Start Here

- Household Chemical Emergencies [<https://www.ready.gov/household-chemical-emergencies>]
(Department of Homeland Security)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.ready.gov/es/emergencias-con-productos-quimicos-en-el-hogar>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Poisoning: First Aid [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-poisoning/basics/ART-20056657?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/first-aid/first-aid-poisoning/basics/art-20056657?p=1>]

Prevention and Risk Factors

- Household Hazards to Pets [<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/household-hazards>]
(American Veterinary Medical Association)
- Read the Label First! Protect Your Household [<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-02/documents/household.pdf>]
(Environmental Protection Agency) - **PDF**

Related Issues

- Chemical Emergency Preparedness [<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/chemical-emergency.html>] (American Red Cross)
- Poison-Proof Your Home One Room at a Time: Pesticide Poison Prevention Checklist [<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-10/documents/roombyroom-checklist.pdf>] (Environmental Protection Agency) - **PDF**
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-10/documents/roombyroom-spanish.pdf>]
- Recalls [<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>] (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- SaferProducts.gov [<https://www.saferproducts.gov/>] (Consumer Product Safety Commission)

Specifics

- What You Should Know about Using Paint Strippers [<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/423%20Paint%20Stripper%20Publication.pdf>] (Consumer Product Safety Commission) - **PDF**

Statistics and Research


- Poisonings Among Children Ages 0-14 in 2018 [https://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/2020_fast_facts_poisonings_v1.pdf] (Safe Kids Worldwide)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Knowledge, Perceptions, and Practices of Skin-Lightening Products Among Female Medical Students:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40755428>]
- Article: Sunscreen products: little-known cosmetic counterfeits. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40742057>]
- Article: In Vitro Genotoxic and Cytotoxic Evaluation of Phenoxyethanol in Human Lymphocytes:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40741871>]
- Household Products -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Household+Products%22%5Bmajr%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Find an Expert

- Environmental Protection Agency [<https://www.epa.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.epa.gov/>]
- Find a Poison Center [<https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/poison-centers/find-poison-center>]
(Health Resources and Services Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/es/centros-informacion-toxicologica/encontrar-centro>]
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/scied/teachers/educacion>]

Women

- Using Household Chemicals during Pregnancy [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/chemicals-pregnancy.html>]
(Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/chemicals-pregnancy.html>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Acetone poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002480.htm>]

Ammonia poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002759.htm>]

Copper poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002496.htm>]

Detergent poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002777.htm>]

Drain cleaner poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002779.htm>]

Drain opener poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002780.htm>]

Gasoline poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002806.htm>]

Kerosene poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002807.htm>]

Lighter fluid poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002833.htm>]

Oven cleaner poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002800.htm>]

Toilet bowl cleaners and deodorizers poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002743.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Child Safety [<https://medlineplus.gov/childsafety.html>]

Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitizing [<https://medlineplus.gov/cleaningdisinfectingandsanitizing.html>]

Cosmetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/cosmetics.html>]

Indoor Air Pollution [<https://medlineplus.gov/indoorairpollution.html>]

Pesticides [<https://medlineplus.gov/pesticides.html>]

Poisoning [<https://medlineplus.gov/poisoning.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Household Products* is the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>]

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