

For Additional Information

Indiana State Department of Health
Environmental Epidemiology Section
317.351.7190, ext. 262
www.in.gov/isdh/23552.htm

Indiana Poison Center
Poison - Emergency treatment and advice
Emergency Phone: 800.222.1222
TTY/TDD: 317.962.2336
www.clarian.org/poisoncontrol

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Pollution Prevention & Technical Assistance (OPPTA) 800.988.7901

Household Waste Fact Sheet
www.in.gov/idem/4558.htm

Recycle Indiana
www.in.gov/recycle/
Go to the "Recycling Topics" selection under the Recycling Information menu choice on the left.

National and State Web Sites on Hazardous Household Products

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/>

<http://swmcb.org/>

www.outreach.missouri.edu.own

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochnp/ochnpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm>

www.ikecoalition.org/

All information provided is general in nature and should not be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.



Indiana State Department of Health

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Handling Common Household Chemicals



How to Have and Keep a Healthy Home



How to Have and Keep a Healthy Home

There are many chemical products used in and around the home that can become hazardous if they are not transported, stored, used, or disposed of correctly.

All household products should have labels or instructions that explain how to properly store, use, and dispose of them. Read that information carefully and look for words like **poison, toxic, irritant, corrosive, flammable, or reactive**. If possible, replace these products with newer ones that are safer for you and your home. When you work with a chemical product, buy only the amount you need for the job. Read and follow the label instructions carefully.

Most Common Household Chemicals

- ◆ Automotive fluids (e.g., oil, gasoline, coolant, windshield cleaning fluid)
- ◆ Cleaning products (e.g., bleach, disinfectant, air freshener)
- ◆ Laundry products (e.g., detergent, fabric softener, stain remover)
- ◆ Personal hygiene products (e.g., hairspray, fingernail polish/remover, hair coloring)
- ◆ Lawn and garden products (e.g., fertilizer, pesticides, weed killer)
- ◆ Barbecue products (e.g., propane, charcoal briquettes, lighter fluid)
- ◆ Home maintenance products (e.g., paint, varnishes/stains, mouse/rat poison)



How to Use Chemicals Safely

- ◆ Avoid smoking while using hazardous chemicals.
- ◆ Avoid using chemicals near wells, cisterns, waterways, and bare ground.
- ◆ When using dangerous chemicals, make sure that people, especially children, and pets are not in the area.
- ◆ Remove/cover food, cooking and eating utensils, and pet dishes when using potentially harmful chemicals.
- ◆ If working inside, be sure to ventilate the area by opening windows and doors.
- ◆ Wear gloves that will protect your hands and allow a firm grip on the product(s). When working inside, be sure to ventilate the area by opening windows and doors.
- ◆ Open containers carefully to avoid inhaling fumes/dust or contact with your skin and eyes.
- ◆ If you are spraying products containing toxic chemicals, whether working inside or outside:
 - Wear an appropriate mask to prevent inhaling the spray.
 - Wear clothing that will protect any exposed skin.
 - Wear safety glasses/goggles.
- ◆ Some cleaning products, such as bleach and ammonia, when mixed together, will create toxic fumes. In some instances, these chemicals may cause an explosion or fire.



Remember To Always Read and Carefully Follow Product Label Instructions

Storing Chemicals

RETURN all products to their proper place after use.

KEEP the product in its original container, closed tightly, and correctly labeled.

CHECK the product container(s) often, looking for leaks, tears, dents/sagging, or loose lids/caps.

RECOGNIZE/SEPARATE chemicals that:

- ◆ cannot be stored together,
- ◆ must have temperature control, and
- ◆ must have moisture control.

STORE pesticides, pool chemicals, and flammable liquids or gases in a well ventilated area away from your home, in a latched storage container.

LOCK UP/REMOVE all chemicals from children's reach.



Disposing of Chemical Products

GIVE the unused product(s) to a friend/neighbor who will use it properly.

RECYCLE products when you can, like motor oil, coolant, and products that contain mercury.

Visit the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Web site at: www.in.gov/isdh for more information about recycling and waste collection services and locations.