

HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS IN MY HOME???

Many common products contain hazardous ingredients. Paints, solvents, drain openers, pool chemicals, used motor oil and pesticides are a few of the products that may be hazardous to your health or to our environment.

Why should I be concerned?

Thousands of adults will visit a poison control center or emergency room this year with burns, poisonings or eyesight damaged by household products. Almost one million children under the age of six will be poisoned or injured in the home by household products, as will thousands of pets.

How can I identify the products that contain hazardous ingredients?

Read the label. If the label says DANGER, POISON, WARNING or CAUTION, the product may be hazardous to your health or may pollute our ground and surface water.

Should I throw these products in the trash?

No. Some household products release toxic fumes or explode if they are mixed together in the trash, causing fires or injuring workers. Dumping them in sewers or landfills may also contaminate our water supply or kill fish and other wildlife.

What should I do . . .

Conduct a

Household Hazardous Products Audit

Identify and get rid of hazardous products. This audit is quick and easy to do.

FIRST

Look for products you find on the list below. If you find any that are on the list, they contain hazardous ingredients. Place a red dot on the lids to identify them.

Start in the kitchen:

Metal or furniture polish
Oven cleaner
Spot remover

Check bathrooms:

Blood pressure gauges
Disinfectant
Drain opener
Mercury thermometers

Try the basement:

Camp fuel
Hobby and photo chemicals
Mercury switches or thermostats
Oil and alkyd paint and stain
Paint thinner and remover
Solvent-based wood finish

Garage or shed:

Acid
Auto paint
Brake and power steering fluid
Bug and tar remover
Car polish and cleaner
Driveway sealer with solvent
Fertilizer with weed killer
Gasoline
Insecticides
Marine paints and sealers
Mercury in bottles
Old pesticides
Pool cleaners and chemicals
Radiator flush
Rodent poison
Solvents or degreasers
Weed killer
Wood preservatives

SECOND

Set aside products you no longer need. Give them to friends or neighbors who will use them up.

THIRD

Place the remaining products in a sturdy box or plastic bin, and bring them to hazardous products collection.

Mercury Collection

Any mercury-containing devices accepted. Free digital thermometers and thermostats in exchange for mercury thermometers and thermostats, compliments of American Ref-fuel Company of SEMASS.

