

# Poison Prevention: Read the Label First!



## Community Action Kit



*Your Safety & Health Leader for 90 Years*

National Safety Council  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #1200  
Washington, DC 20036  
<http://www.nsc.org/ehc.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5, Library (PL-12J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard, 12th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

## Poison Prevention Community Action Kit Evaluation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of outreach activity did you conduct?

- ☐ A safety fair  
☐ With a school  
☐ With a retailer  
☐ With a doctor or clinic  
☐ With a special interest group  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What sections of the kit did you use? Please rate their effectiveness from 1 to 5 (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Sheets	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Web Pages	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> News Articles	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Brochures	1	2	3	4	5

What would you do differently next time? \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how many people attended the event? \_\_\_\_\_

How many visited your booth or listened to your presentation? \_\_\_\_\_

Did people ask questions that were not covered by the presentation material?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

If yes, what did they ask? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we improve this kit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Kristin Marstiller, National Safety Council, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20036, phone (202) 293-2270, x469, email: [marstilk@nsc.org](mailto:marstilk@nsc.org)

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# Introduction

A child is accidentally poisoned every 30 seconds in the United States and more than half of these poisonings occur at home to children under age five, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians. Young children are poisoned most commonly by things found in the home such as drugs and cleaning products. Although anyone can become sick from certain medications, household pesticides, and household cleaners, children may face a greater risk than an adult for several reasons. Their internal organs are still developing and their enzymatic, metabolic and immune systems may provide less natural protections than those of an adult. Children's behavior, such as playing on the floor or on the lawn where pesticides are applied, or putting objects into their mouths, increase their chances of exposure to pesticides. Calls to poison control centers peak between 4:00 and 10:00 PM when households become more hectic during the routine of getting dinner on the table and parents are more distracted.

As partners in safety, we each have a desire to help our community by instilling safe practices. This process starts by educating the public about a safety hazard and then providing steps that can help change unsafe behavior.

This kit will help you:

- raise awareness about the preventable poisonings caused by the improper use and storage of household chemicals and pesticides.
- teach parents, pet owners, gardeners, and others in your community the value of reading and understanding the labels that are found on these products.
- plan outreach activities and evaluate the programs you establish.
- work with local officials and the media to focus attention on your planned outreach activities.

To make this material as user-friendly as possible, we are providing it in both hard copy and electronically on a CD-ROM. Many of the pieces on the CD-ROM are designed so you can place your own contact information on it. This kit was developed by the National Safety Council and funded under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



# The Fact Sheets

The first step in changing safety behavior is education. This section contains individual fact sheets about poisons and poison prevention that can be copied and handed out at community safety fairs, schools, doctors' office and clinics, and appropriate retail locations, and provided to community service organizations. If you wish to customize the sheets, you can use the copies provided on the CD-ROM and add your own name, logo, and contact information. You may not delete or alter the Read the Label *First!* logo.

The fact sheets in this section include:

- ♦ Types of Poisons in the Home
- ♦ Poisons: Room by Room
- ♦ Poison Prevention Tips
- ♦ First Aid for Poisoning
- ♦ Understanding the Label on Hazardous Household Chemicals
- ♦ What is a Pesticide?
- ♦ How Hazardous? The Terms
- ♦ Pesticide Regulations
- ♦ Disposal of Hazardous Products



**An ounce of prevention is  
worth a pound of cure.**

## Fact Sheet ...

# Types of Poisons in the Home



As consumers, we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products -- materials used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, exterminating insects, and killing weeds. These items are valuable in the home, for yard maintenance, and for health. Misuse, especially when products are used in inappropriate applications or quantities, can cause illness, injury, and even death.

Unintentional poisonings can happen to anyone, at any time, in many situations. Unintentional poisonings, however, can be prevented. Following label directions for all products, including medication dosages, and proper storage of potentially toxic products are important precautions to heed.

Some products, such as medicines, are easily recognized as a potential source of poisonings, but others may not be as obvious. Many common household products are pesticides. A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests include insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses.

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By their very nature,  
most pesticides create  
some risk of harm to humans,  
animals, or the environment  
because they are designed to  
kill or otherwise adversely  
affect pests.

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Household products that are pesticides, including:

- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Insect repellents for personal use
- Rat and other rodent poisons
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
- Products that kill mold and mildew
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers
- Some swimming pool chemicals

Here are some common kinds of pesticides and their function:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Algicides</b> - Control algae in lakes, canals, swimming pools, water tanks, and other sites.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Antifouling agents</b> - Kill or repel organisms that attach to underwater surfaces, such as boat bottoms.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

- **Antimicrobials** - Kill microorganisms (such as bacteria and viruses).
- **Attractants** - Attract pests (for example, to lure an insect or rodent to a trap).
- **Biocides** - Kill microorganisms.
- **Disinfectants and sanitizers** - Kill or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms on inanimate objects.
- **Fungicides** - Kill fungi (including blights, mildews, molds, and rusts).
- **Fumigants** - Produce gas or vapor intended to destroy pests in buildings or soil.
- **Herbicides** - Kill weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted.
- **Insecticides** - Kill insects and other arthropods.
- **Miticides** (also called acaricides) - Kill mites that feed on plants and animals.
- **Microbial pesticides** - Microorganisms that kill, inhibit, or out compete pests, including insects or other microorganisms.
- **Molluscicides** - Kill snails and slugs.
- **Nematicides** - Kill nematodes (microscopic, worm-like organisms that feed on plant roots).
- **Ovicides** - Kill eggs of insects and mites.
- **Pheromones** - Biochemicals used to disrupt the mating behavior of insects.
- **Repellents** - Repel pests, including insects (such as mosquitoes) and birds.
- **Rodenticides** - Control mice and other rodents.

For more information on pesticides and disinfectants, call the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-PEST.



## Fact Sheet ...

# Poisons: Room by Room



You can keep yourself and family members safer by being aware of potential hazards and observing these suggestions on ways to poison-proof your home. Try going through your home by bending down to a child's level and looking at everything from their point of view.

### Bathroom

Some items that might be found in the bathroom include medicines, cosmetics, tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaners, bathroom deodorizers, mouthwash, and other personal hygiene products.

- Have a child-proof section that locks. Even if your medicine cabinet is high up, youngsters are inquisitive and avid climbers. They can easily reach a cabinet by climbing from the toilet (or other convenient object) to the sink and thus reach into the cabinet.
- Keep medication lids tightly closed. A child-resistant cap is meaningless if not properly fastened after each use.
- Avoid taking medication in front of a child or referring to pills as candy. Kids often mimic adults. Also, something that tastes awful to an adult may not faze a small child.
- Always follow the recommended dosage set forth on the label or by your doctor for all medications.
- Some mouthwashes contain enough alcohol to poison small children. Consider alternative products.
- Some disinfectants and toilet bowl cleaners are dangerously caustic and capable of burning tissue if ingested.

### Bedroom

Some items that might be found in the bedroom include mothballs, cosmetics, hair sprays, colognes, nail polish remover, and medicines.

- Mothballs and crystals should be hung in containers. If such products are used in closets or chests, they should be out of the reach of children.
- If children are present, it is best if personal care items are kept out of their reach. Hair spray, cologne, perfumes, nail polish remover, nail glue remover, and astringents should be kept where children can't get into them.

### Living Room

Although there are not as many items of concern in the livingroom, one should be aware of items brought in by guests.

- Pay attention to visitors. People who visit may carry medications in coat pockets and purses, which are potential hunting grounds for a curious child. Hang garments and store purses where children are not likely to get at them.
- Lead poisoning is a serious medical problem. Children may be exposed to different lead sources in your home. Small children may chew on windowsills, eat paint chips or suck on their hands, exposing themselves to lead dust. Older furniture, such as cribs, playpens, chairs, etc., and painted toys may also contain lead-based paint.
- Another potential source of poisoning for small children are carpet cleaners because they frequently play on the carpet. Toys and hands may come in contact with cleaner and be transferred to their mouth.

### Kitchen

Some items that might be found in the kitchen include dishwashing detergent, liquid dish soap, scouring soap, disinfectants, window cleaners, oven cleaners, medicines, vitamins, furniture polishes, drain cleaners/openers, and ammonia.

- Check under the sink and low cabinet shelves. Look for products that could be hazardous when accessible to young children. These could include such items as bleaching agents, bug spray, rust removers, drain cleaners, ammonia, oven cleaners, detergents, furniture polish, floor wax, metal polish, wax remover, and wall/floor/toilet bowl cleaners. If products cannot be moved, install safety latches on the lower cupboard doors to keep children out.
- Even food extracts, such as vanilla and almond which may contain alcohol, can be harmful to children.
- Cleaning compounds and foods should never be stored on the same shelf. One item might be mistaken for another.
- Keep all substances in their original containers. Using beverage bottles or cans for storing cleaning fluids, liquid floor wax, and other

household mixtures is very hazardous. Children, and even adults, might mistake the contents for the original beverage. Also, labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.

- Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped while using. Do not leave the unattended container uncapped for even "just a minute" if children are present.

## Laundry Room

Some items that might be found in the laundry room include laundry detergent, bleach, fabric softener, stain removers, and dye.

- Store chemicals up high (out of the reach of children).
- Install safety latches on the cupboard doors to keep children out.
- Keep all substances in their original containers. Using beverage bottles or cans for storing detergents can be hazardous. Also, labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.
- Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped while using. Do not leave the unattended container uncapped for even "just a minute" if children are present.

## Garage

Some items that might be found in the garage include gasoline, kerosene, car wax/soaps, weed killers/pesticides, paint, windshield washer fluid, and anti-freeze.

- Store chemicals up high (out of the reach of children).
- Install safety latches on the cupboard doors to keep children out.
- Keep all substances in their original containers. Labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.
- Clean up spills and leaks immediately and store products properly.

## Additional Precautions

- Use safety latches or combination locks to prevent curious children from getting into cabinets and drawers. Don't let children watch you open them. Kids learn fast.
- Many poisonings of youngsters happen when the household routine has been interrupted. Examples of such changes include: when a

parent is ill; when a family is moving; when a family is on a trip; when there is a guest in the home; when there is family tension; when seasonal products are in use. In addition, hungry or tired children are prone to putting the first available object they find into their mouths.

- Keep the number for the **nation-wide poison control center toll-free number, 800/222-1222**, family doctor, and hospital emergency room posted near the telephone. Having the original container and its label is important in helping paramedics and doctors help you.
- For handling poisonings and other emergencies, everyone should be trained in first aid.
- Throw out old medicines (over-the-counter and prescriptions) to reduce clutter and potential ingestion errors. Look for the expiration date. Out-of-date medications may be ineffective and/or dangerous.

## Especially for Older Adults

- Request medicine labels be printed in larger type.
- If one type of child-restraint closure is difficult to use, ask your pharmacist for a different kind (especially if there are grandchildren around).
- Make sure you are taking the medicine you intended; turn on the lights and double-check the label, especially when you are sleepy or sick.
- Avoid dosage errors - use dosage containers indicating day of week and/or time of day; don't leave it to memory.
- If you are taking two or more medications (prescription or over-the-counter), be sure to check with your pharmacist to avoid unexpected drug interactions.
- Consider a dedicated medicine storage area - even if there are no kids in the house.

## Pets are Susceptible, Too!

- Poisonous antifreeze tastes sweet to dogs and cats - clean up spills and leaks immediately and store products properly.
- Avoid using pesticides where pet food is stored or served.
- Avoid feeding pets human food - chocolate can poison and kill a dog. Onions are potentially harmful.
- Pets are healthier eating food specially formulated for what they need.

## Fact Sheet ...

# Poison Prevention Tips



Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms and some 900 deaths. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. Many of these poisonings can be safely handled at home if you call the poison control center. Many common household products can be poisonous including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polish, lighter fluids, medicines, and supplements containing iron.

Although pesticides can be beneficial to society, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly or if they are not stored properly and out of the reach of children. According to data collected from the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2001 alone, an estimated 66,000 children less than six years of age were involved in common household pesticide-related poisonings or exposures in the United States. An additional 28,000 children were exposed to or poisoned by household chlorine bleach.

A survey by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding pesticides used in and around the home revealed that almost half (47%) of all households **with** children under the age of five had at least one pesticide stored in an unlocked cabinet, less than 4 feet off the ground (i.e., within the reach of children). Approximately 75% of households **without** children under the age of five also stored pesticides in an unlocked cabinet, less than 4 feet off the ground. This number is especially significant because 13% of all pesticide poisoning incidents occur in homes other than the child's home.

Some tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number (800/222-1222) and your doctor's phone number handy.
- Keep products in original containers with labels and out of the reach of children.
- Get down to a child's height and look at potential hazardous from their point of view.
- Read the label and follow directions and precautions for safe and effective use, storage, and first aid.
- Use hazardous products away from children, toys, food, and pets, as directed.
- Store products out of the reach of children, even if you don't have small children. Many poisonings happen when children are visiting homes where no children live.
- Properly dispose of unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.
- Check the playground equipment where your children play to be sure that none of the wood has been treated with potentially hazardous chemicals.
- Keep syrup of ipecac available, but use only when instructed to by a doctor or a Poison Control Center.
- If a household chemical has been ingested, call the Poison Control Center or doctor or follow the first aid instructions on the label. Have the label ready when you call.

**Poison Control Center - 800/222-1222**

## Fact Sheet ...

# First Aid for Poisoning



**Prevention** of poisoning is the best path for your safety and health. In addition to danger of the poison, none of the medical procedures or drugs used to treat poisonings is risk-free. Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.

In the case of an emergency, try to determine what the person was exposed to and what part of the body was affected before you take action. If the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing, or having convulsions, give needed first aid immediately. Call 911 or your local emergency service. If the person is awake, conscious, not having trouble breathing, and not having convulsions, read the label for first aid instructions and contact the nation-wide toll-free number (800/222-1222) or your doctor. Remember to act fast because speed is crucial! But equally important is taking the right action. In most cases, the hazardous product's label provides you with a "First Aid Instructions" to follow in emergencies. The appropriate first aid treatment depends on the kind of poisoning that has occurred. If first aid instructions are not available, follow the general guidelines below and/or call the nation-wide poison control center or your doctor.

### Swallowed poison

Call the poison control center at 800/222-1222. Always keep syrup of ipecac on hand (one ounce for each child in the household) to use to induce vomiting, but induce vomiting **ONLY** if emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. It will depend on what the person has swallowed; some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the person is made to vomit. Be sure the date is current.

### Inhaled poison

Carry or drag victim to fresh air immediately. If you think you need protection such as a respirator and one is not available to you, call 911 and wait for emergency equipment before entering the area. Loosen person's tight clothing. If the person's skin is blue or the person has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (if you know how) and call 911 for help. Open doors and windows so no one else will be poisoned by fumes.

### Poison in eye

If poison splashes into an eye, hold the eyelid open and wash quickly and gently with clean running water from the tap or a gentle stream from a hose for at least 15 minutes. Eye damage can occur in a few minutes with some types of toxic chemicals. If possible, have someone else contact a poison control center for you while the victim is being treated. Do not use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.

### Poison on skin

Call the nation-wide poison control center if a toxic chemical splashes on the skin. Drench area with water and remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.

**Nation-wide Poison Control Center**  
**800/222-1222**

## Fact Sheet ...

# Understanding the Label on Hazardous Household Chemicals



Labels contain a lot of important information. However, because consumer products are regulated by different laws, with different objectives, the information is presented in a variety of ways. Consequently, consumers can't always find the information they want. Through a voluntary partnership with industry, EPA is working to make labels more consistent and user-friendly. Some of changes include the use of toll-free numbers with emergency information; use of more common names for active ingredients; and use of "First Aid Instructions" instead of "Statement of Practical Treatment," revised first aid statements, and an easier to read format

EPA registers and regulates pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Before a company can sell or distribute any pesticide in the U.S., EPA must review studies on the pesticide to determine that it will not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. To make such determinations, EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants. Once EPA has made that determination, it will license or register that pesticide for use in strict accordance with label directions.

## PRODUCT NAME

### 1. Directions for Use

This section tells you what the pesticide product controls, when, how, and where to use the product. Often the product's manufacturer has included a booklet with the container. Some manufacturers also provide a toll-free number for consumers to use to obtain additional information on their products.

### 2. Precautionary Statements, Hazard to Humans and Pets

This section describes potential hazards to people and pets and actions you can take to reduce those hazards, for example, wearing gloves. These statements may also provide extra information on how to protect your children or pets.

### 3. Environmental Hazards

If the product is potentially harmful to wildlife, fish, endangered plants or animals, or may adversely impact wetlands or water resources, this section will provide additional information on what to do to avoid environmental damage.

1. DIRECTIONS FOR USE It is a violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.	6. KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN DANGER
2. PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS HAZARD TO HUMANS (AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS) DANGER	7. FIRST AID (STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT) IF SWALLOWED _____ IF INHALED _____ IF IN EYES _____ IF ON SKIN _____
3. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS	8. ACTIVE INGREDIENTS _____ % OTHER (INERT) INGREDIENTS _____ %
4. PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS	9. TOTAL: 100.00%
5. STORAGE AND DISPOSAL STORAGE _____ DISPOSAL _____	10. THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS XX LBS. OF XXXX PER GALLON WARRANTY STATEMENT _____
	11. MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS _____
	12. NET WT. / NET CONTENTS STATEMENT _____
	13. EPA Registration No. / EPA Reg. No. _____
	14. EPA Establishment No. / EPA Est. No. _____

### 4. Physical or Chemical Hazards

This section notes hazards such as corrosivity or flammability of the product. For example, if the pesticide is flammable, the product should not be used or stored near open flames.

### 5. Storage and Disposal

This section tells you how to best store the product and what to do with the unused portion of the product and the empty container.

## **6. Signal Words**

On the label, you will find one of the following signal words: Caution, Warning, or Danger. The signal word indicates the pesticide's potential hazard level to humans, with Caution being the least harmful and Danger the most harmful.

## **7. First Aid Instructions**

This section tells you what to do first if someone accidentally swallows or breathes the pesticide, or gets it on their skin or in their eyes. Labels may also contain a section labeled "Note to Physicians," which provides doctors with specific medical information.

## **8. Active Ingredients**

This section identifies the active ingredient(s) in the product. The active ingredient controls the pests listed on the label.

## **9. Other Ingredient (Inert Ingredient)**

This section tells you the percentage of other ingredients (sometimes called inert ingredients) in the product. The names of the other ingredients may or may not be shown on the label. These other ingredients do not control the pest, but serve other purposes, such as dissolving the active ingredient or affecting how the product works.

## **10. Warranty Statement**

This statement is intended to limit a company's liability, or to act as a disclaimer or as a warranty for the product.

## **11. Manufacturer's Address**

This section shows the name and address, and sometimes phone number or Web site, of the manufacturer or distributor of the product.

## **12. Net Weight/Net Content Statement**

This section identifies how much pesticide product is in the container.

## **13. EPA Registration Number**

All pesticides products (but not other household chemicals) sold in the United States must be registered with the EPA. The registration number shows that the product has been reviewed by the EPA and that the EPA has determined the product can be used with minimal risk if you follow the directions on the label properly. The number is not an endorsement or guarantee of product effectiveness.

## **14. EPA Establishment Number**

This section gives the number that identifies the particular facility where the final phase of production of the pesticide product took place.

# **What is a Pesticide?**



## **What Are Pesticides?**

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses. Many household products are pesticides, including:

- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Insect repellents for personal use
- Rat and other rodent poisons
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers
- Products that kill mold and mildew
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers
- Some swimming pool chemicals

By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect pests. At the same time, pesticide are useful to society because of their ability to kill potential disease-causing organisms and control insects, weeds, and other pests.

## **Where Are They Found?**

Pesticides are potential hazards in many buildings because they are widely used to reduce many household pests, including those associated with indoor plants, pets, and wood and woolen products, and because they are tracked in from the outdoors. Pesticides used in and around the home include products to control insects, termites, rodents, fungi, and microbes. They are sold as liquids, sprays, powders, crystals, balls, and foggers.

Surveys show that 75 percent of homes in the United States use at least one pesticide product indoors per year. Those most often used are insecticides and disinfectants. However, studies suggest that 80 to 90 percent of exposures to pesticides occur indoors and that measurable levels of up to a dozen pesticides have been found in the air inside homes. Residential exposure results not only from the use of pesticides in the home but also from pesticides coming into the house from other sources.

## **What Are the Health Effects?**

Potential human risks range from short-term (acute) effects including headaches and dizziness to long-term (chronic) effects such as cancer and reproductive system disorders. The health effects depend on the type of pesticide. Some, such as the organophosphates and carbonates, affect the nervous system. Others may irritate the skin or eyes. The acute toxicity of a pesticide is indicated by the “signal word” (Caution, Warning, or Danger). Exposure to high

levels of pesticides, usually due to misapplication, may cause headaches, dizziness, muscle twitching, weakness, tingling sensation, and nausea. Since some of these symptoms may be similar to symptoms of the flu or other disease, it is critical that someone with one or more of these symptoms inform a doctor if symptoms appear after using or being exposed to a pesticide. Some pesticides may be carcinogens. Others may affect the hormone or endocrine system in the body.

Chronic health effects resulting from long-term exposure to pesticides are also a concern. These health effects may include potential carcinogenicity, reproductive effects, and effects on the central nervous system. EPA has banned or eliminated exposure to a number of pesticides suspected to have chronic human health effects. A significant epidemiological study begun in 1993, called the Agricultural Health Study, is monitoring the health of about 90,000 pesticide handlers to determine whether any particular pesticide exposure leads to cancer, reproductive effects, or other chronic effects. In general, EPA and public health professionals recommend the public limit their exposure to pesticides because, despite all the testing, it is not usually possible to rule out a pesticides potential contribution to chronic disease.

In 2000, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that more than 1,294,000 children, 12 years old and younger, were involved in common household pesticide poisonings or exposures. In households with children, almost one-half stored at least one pesticide product within reach of the children.

### **How Can You Reduce Exposure to Pesticides in Your Home?**

To reduce risks when you are using pesticides, take these precautions:

- Buy only legally sold, EPA-registered pesticides.
- Reread the directions on the label each time you use the pesticide and follow the directions carefully.
- Use only the amount directed, at the time and under the conditions specified, and for the purpose listed.
- Use nonchemical methods of pest control when possible.
- Identify the pest and use a pesticide targeted for that pest.
- Ventilate the area during and after pesticide use.
- Dispose of unused pesticides safely.

Anyone considering the use of a pest control company should receive satisfactory answers to questions about the company's track record, insurance coverage, licenses, affiliation to professional pest control associations, and the proposed treatment. Questions regarding pesticide use and safety may be referred to the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-PEST.



## Fact Sheet ...

# How Hazardous? The Terms



Research shows that people are more likely to read the label and follow the directions if they feel that the product is hazardous. On the label of all hazardous household products, you will find one of the following signal words to indicate the product's potential hazard level to humans: Caution, Warning, or Danger.

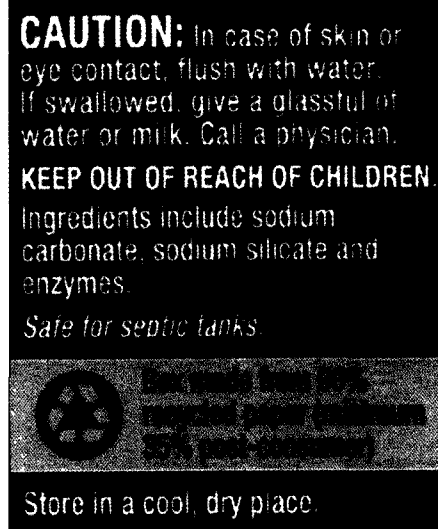
**CAUTION** indicates the lowest level of potential harm. It means that the product is not likely to produce permanent damage as a result of exposure, if appropriate first aid is given. The eye or skin could become inflamed, or adverse effects, such as dizziness or stomach upset, could occur if the product is swallowed or inhaled.

**WARNING** indicates a higher level of potential harm than Caution, meaning that you could become seriously ill or harmed. It also is used to identify products that can easily catch on fire. These products are required by law to be in child-resistant packaging.

**DANGER** indicates the highest level of potential harm. Accidental exposure of the eye or skin of the product could



produce tissue damage. Swallowing the product could produce damage to the mouth, throat, and stomach or even death. This signal word is also used if the material could explode if exposed to an open flame. These products are required by law to be in child-resistant packaging. You may also find a skull-and-crossbones symbol along with words "Danger-Poison" on certain pesticide products. This means the product is a systemic poison.



# **Pesticide Regulations**



By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. At the same time, pesticides are useful to society because of their ability to kill potential disease-causing organisms and control insects, weeds, and other pests. In the United States, the Office of Pesticide Programs within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is chiefly responsible for regulating pesticides. Biologically-based pesticides, such as pheromones and microbial pesticides, are becoming increasingly popular and often are safer than traditional chemical pesticides.

EPA registers and regulates pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Before a company can sell or distribute any pesticide in the United States of America, EPA must review studies on the pesticide to determine that it will not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. To make such determinations, EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants. Once EPA has made that determination, it will license or register that pesticide for use in strict accordance with label directions.

## **Child-Resistant Packaging**

Since 1981, the FIFRA has required most residential-use pesticides with a signal word of "danger" or "warning" to be in child-resistant packaging. These are the pesticides that are most toxic to children. Child-resistant packaging is designed to prevent most children under the age of five from gaining access to the pesticide, or at least delay their access. However, individuals must also take precautions to protect children from accidental pesticide poisonings or exposures and take the time to understand the label.

## Fact Sheet ...

# Disposal of Hazardous Products



Many state laws, municipal codes, local practices, and educational programs, have addressed the issue of instructing consumers how to dispose of household hazardous waste and containers. The most frequent recommendation directs consumers to contact local waste management authorities for advice on what to do with particular containers. Many states have passed laws limiting the types of waste that can be put in their landfills, sometimes excluding all hazardous waste, regardless of source. States and municipalities across the country have created more than 4,000 hazardous household waste collection events and facilities, and that number continues to grow. Some products, such as used motor oil, can be recycled and reused. Consumers are also encouraged to buy only the amount of the product they need.

Limiting the amount of hazardous waste materials or removing them from the solid waste stream allows municipalities to reduce the potential for accidental exposures to sanitation workers, materials recovery facility workers, landfill workers, and the environment.

Some general guidance for disposal is outlined below.

### Products in pressurized containers

**Do Not Puncture or Incinerate!**

**If empty:** Place in trash or offer for recycling if available.

**If partly filled:** Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions.



### Products in non-pressurized containers

This includes liquids and solids (tablets, dusts, gels, pet products, etc.) in all other types of product containers (e.g., bags, boxes, bottles, cans, bait stations, squeeze tubes, etc.)

**If empty:** Do not reuse this container. Place in trash or offer for recycling if available.

**If partly filled:** Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down any indoor or outdoor drain.



The phrase “call your local solid waste agency” is intended to direct consumers to contact their local government agency responsible for waste management in order to receive instructions on how to properly dispose of the product in their area. Disposal instructions and reuse and recycling capabilities vary from municipality to municipality. For more information on disposal of hazardous products where you live, call Earth 911 at 800-CLEANUP, or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org).

In the past, consumers had been directed to “securely wrap original container in several layers of newspaper and discard in trash.” However, wrapping containers prior to disposal in the trash does not appear to provide reliable protection to sanitation workers as intended and may result in accidental or unknown exposures. Consumers were also previously instructed to rinse their empty containers, but experience has shown that many consumers were confused by rinsing procedures and often incorrectly disposed of the rinse water down the drain or down sewers. States have reported detecting some pesticides in drinking water that appear, in some cases, to be linked to disposal or rinsing in residential waste water systems. There is also the potential risk of adverse chemical reactions occurring when products are poured down drains, singly, or in combination with other products. In addition, storage of rinse water is highly discouraged because of the absence of adequate labeling or packaging.

# Outreach Opportunities

The second step in affecting changes in behavior is engaging the public. In the following pages, we give suggestions on how to approach various segments of the public and engage their help in preventing accidental poisonings.

- Outreach Activities in Schools
- Outreach Activities at Safety Fairs
- Outreach Activities in Doctors' Offices and Clinics
- Outreach Activities with Retailers
- Outreach Activities with Community Service Organizations
- Outreach Activities with Special Interest Groups

In the following section, we provide information on outreach materials that can be used to carry out these outreach opportunities. Also, on pages 29-31, there is a list of additional promotional materials.

# Outreach Activities in Schools

The following are some recommended steps for setting up an outreach activity in a school or daycare setting:

1. Decide whether your efforts will be targeting teachers, parents, or children directly.
2. If students are your target, decide on the grade level and/or age you are interested in reaching. If teachers are your target, you might want to give a presentation during an in-service training. If parents are your target, you might want to give a presentation at a PTA meeting.
2. Determine appropriate materials and/or activities for your audience.
  - A. Preschool and elementary school children: handout children's activity sheets in kit and hold a poster contest.
  - B. Middle/junior high school: sponsor a special prize for the school's science fair (see sample).
  - C. High school: sponsor a special prize for the school's science fair (see sample).
  - D. Teachers: hold a training session on first aid for poisoning, focusing on products used in schools.
  - E. Parents: focus on a couple of the fact sheets or give PowerPoint presentation, and hand out the EPA brochure *Protect Your Kids*
3. If working with students, decide on the scope you feel comfortable working with.
  - A. Single classroom (work with individual teacher)
  - B. All classes with a grade range (possibly work through media center/library)
  - C. Entire school (arrange for a school assembly)
4. Approach appropriate school official or the president of the PTA. Outline the problem and describe how you hope to help with a solution. There is a sample letter included in this kit. If you choose to work with the PTA, send out flyers to the parents (a sample is included), or place event information in the school newsletter.

All of the samples mentioned above are available on the CD-ROM to make it easier to customize to your needs. On pages 29-31 there are sources of additional promotional materials, including some in Spanish.

**Sample ...**

## **Letter to School Official**

Letterhead of Your Organization

[Date]

[School name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]

Dear Principal [Name] (or name of PTA President):

Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms in the United States. According to our local poison control center, there were [Get Statistics from Local Poison Control Center] poisonings in [Location] alone in [Year]. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. Many of these poisonings can be safely handled at home if you call the poison control center. Many common household products can be poisonous, including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polish, lighter fluids, cosmetics, and medicines. Although these products can be beneficial, they can be dangerous if used carelessly or if they are not stored properly. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2000 alone, an estimated 63,000 children less than six years of age were involved in common household pesticide-related poisonings or exposures.

The [Name of Your Organization] wants to help address this serious problem by reaching out to the students (teachers or parents) in [Name of School] and teaching them the importance of reading and understanding the labels of hazardous household chemicals. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Reading the label helps you buy the right product, use it properly, store it safely, and dispose of it correctly.

We would like to work with students in [grade] (teachers through an in-service or parents at a PTA meeting) by talking with them, helping them complete some handouts on poison prevention, and holding a poster contest (conducting a science fair project/contest).

I will call you next week to see if we can join together in addressing this serious public health problem affecting our children.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Title]

**Sample ...**

## **Flyer to Parents for PTA Presentation**

**To:** The Parents of Children at  
[Name of School]

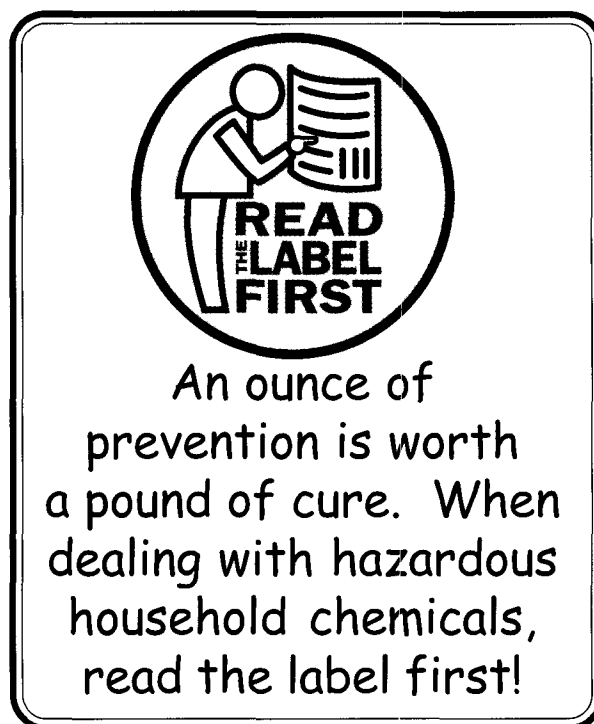
**From:** [Name of Your Organization]

**What:** Poison Prevention  
Presentation

**Where:** [Name of School]

**When:** [Date & Time of Meeting]

**Why:** In the United States, a child is accidentally poisoned every 30 second, and more than half of these poisonings occur at home to children under the age of five. Many of these poisonings can be safely handled at home if you call the poison control center. Many common household products can be poisonous, including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polishes, lighter fluids, medicines, and cosmetics.



Preventing poisonings is the best path to ensure your children's safety and health. In addition to the danger of the poison, none of the medical treatments for poisonings is risk-free. Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.

When you buy a product that is potentially poisonous, read the label first so you will understand the intended use, buy the proper amount, know how to store unused portions, and know how to dispose of empty containers.

[Name of your organization] is interested in the well-being of the citizens in our community and will be presenting this material to help keep all of our children safe and healthy. For more information, please contact us at:

[Name]  
[Organization]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]  
[Telephone]  
[Email]  
[Web Site]



**Sample ...**

## Poster Contest

Many common household products can be poisonous. This includes products such as kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants, cockroach sprays and baits, products that kill mold and mildew, flea and tick sprays and powders, pet collars, insect repellants, rat poison, some lawn and garden products, and some swimming pool chemicals.

The labels of the products contain a lot of important information. Information such as how dangerous it can be, how much to buy, how to use it, how to store, and how to get rid of the empty containers. But all labels don't look alike, and they don't have all the same information.

Using a piece of posterboard, make a poster about how important it is for people to read the label of potentially dangerous household chemicals. Make a poster that will convince people that they should read ***all of the label***. Some of the things you can put in your poster include:

- Show them where to look
- Tell them why they should look
- Tell them what information they can find in label.

Student's Name:

Student's Grade:

Student's School:

Sponsored by: [Name of Your Organization]  
Deadline Date: [Day Month, Year]  
Prizes: [List Prizes]

**Sample ...**

## **Science Fair Project**

In conjunction with [Name of School]'s regular science fair project, [Name of Your Organization] is sponsoring a special prize for the best science fair project on the subject of **accidental poisonings**. This does not include intentional poisonings by substance abuse.

Many common household products can be poisonous. This includes products such as kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants, cockroach sprays and baits, products that kill mold and mildew, flea and tick sprays and powders, pet collars, insect repellants, rat poison, some lawn and garden products, and some swimming pool chemicals. The labels of the products contain a lot of important information. Information such as how dangerous it can be, how much to buy, how to use it, how to store, and how to get rid of the empty containers.

Your science fair project can be in any format — an essay, the 3D representation, an experiment — and can deal with any aspect of accidental poisonings, such as a label design, statistics on poisonings, analysis of a label's ingredients, poison prevention information, first aid, where poisons are commonly found, etc. Do **NOT** experiment with pesticides themselves. Pesticides should be applied only when necessary, by an adult and in strict accordance with label directions. If you want your science fair project to be considered for this additional prize, please fill in the information below and return to [Contact Person] by [Deadline Date]. Good luck!

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by: [Name of Your Organization]

Deadline Date: [Day Month, Year]

Prizes: [List Prizes]

# Outreach Activities at Safety Fairs

There are frequently opportunities to set up booths or displays at already established fairs. Check with your state and county agencies for state and county fairs. Also check with local chapters of organizations such as SafeKids Coalition ([www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)) to participate in any safety fairs they are planning. Local real estate offices also have “safety day” fairs. You can also check with local 4-H clubs, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts to see if they have a safety fair planned. The cost of participation in these fairs may vary greatly from free to reduced fees if you are a nonprofit organization, to fairly expensive for week-long state fairs.

Some fairs or booths are successfully centered around a theme. Some that would work well for the prevention of accidental poisonings include spring cleaning, National Poison Prevention Week (the third week of March), National Safety Month (June), spring yard work, and preparing the swimming pool for summer fun.

If the facilities can accommodate it, plan to run the PowerPoint presentation included on the CD-ROM. This type of presentation will draw people to your booth. Since the presentation is set to run continuously and is self-explanatory, it will keep their attention while you are interacting with other attendees. Also order the appropriate EPA brochures for your anticipated audience, as well as the other promotional items to hand out (see list of materials on pages 29-31). Make copies of the children’s activity sheets and set up a child’s table and chairs with crayons and pencils where children can do the activities with your help, or to keep children occupied while you talk with their parents.

# Outreach Activities in Doctors' Offices and Clinics

Visit the local emergency clinics and health clinics, as well as doctors' office to request permission to have a poison prevention display in their waiting room. This display can include the EPA poster, the EPA brochure *Protect Your Kids*, the Emergency Telephone Number Stickers, Mr. Yuk stickers, and various other literature from the materials listed on pages 29-31. For pediatricians' offices, the display can also include some of the children's activity sheets.

If the waiting room can accommodate it, ask the doctor or clinic if they will allow you to run either the PowerPoint presentation or one of the videos listed in the materials section.

# Outreach Activities with Retailers

There are a number of retailers that have a reason to be interested in the issue of accidental poisoning incidents due to hazardous household chemicals. This would include those that sell:

- household cleaners (grocery stores and supermarkets)
- pet products (pet stores, supermarkets)
- garden pesticides (hardware stores, gardening stores)
- automotive fluids (automotive parts stores, supermarkets)
- cosmetics (supermarkets, department stores, grocery stores)
- medication - both prescription and over the counter (pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores)

The focus on poison prevention can be either at the checkout counter or in the specific areas of concern, such as the household cleaner aisle.

Some of the activities can include:

- Set up a table in the retailer's store where a volunteer can distribute brochures and fact sheets on hazardous household chemicals to shoppers.
- For a predetermined time (for instance, during National Poison Prevention Week), ask the retailer to include a poison prevention fact sheet or EPA brochure in every shopping bag when a purchase is made.
- Display a point-of-purchase poster, floor graphic in the aisles.
- Set up a window display.
- Run an in-store workshop of poison prevention based on the PowerPoint presentation.
- Set up a kid's safety center on a prearranged Saturday with poison prevention activities for children while the parents are shopping.
- Run a children's poster contest (use sample, and if necessary, separate by age groups).
- Run an "Identify the Parts of a Label" contest with all correct entries going into a drawing for store merchandise.

# Outreach Activities with Community Service Organizations

There are many different community service organizations that you can approach regarding this serious public health concern. Some of them include:

- Kiwanis Club
- Chamber of Commerce
- Elks Club
- Moose Lodge
- Lions Club
- Jaycees
- Churches

You can contact the local branch of the above organizations and request the time to make a presentation at one of their regular meetings, or offer to write an article on the subject of poison prevention for their newsletter (see samples). You can use the PowerPoint presentation on the CD-ROM for the presentation and handout EPA's brochure *Protect Your Household* or *Protect Your Kids*.

For those organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, that traditionally send out "welcome kits" of information to new residents, you can request that they include EPA's brochure *Protect Your Household*.

# Outreach Activities with Special Interest Groups

There are different types of special groups that could benefit from information on hazardous household chemicals and accidental poisonings.

- **Kennel Clubs.** Dog owners use specialized products for the cleaning and health of their dog that can be potentially hazardous to both people and pets if not used, stored, and disposed of properly. Pet shampoos, flea baths, and flea and tick collars are all designed to keep pets free from pests, but these products are potentially dangerous to children and to the pets if not properly used. You can arrange to visit this type of club during one of their regularly scheduled meetings, give the PowerPoint presentation, and handout EPA's *Protect Your Pet* brochure. You can offer to submit an article in their newsletter (see sample).
- **Cat Fancier Clubs.** As with dog owners, cat owners use specialized products for the cleaning and health of cats that can be potentially hazardous to both people and pets if not used, stored, and disposed of properly. Cats provide an additional challenge because of their curiosity and ability to get into and onto areas that other animals would not be able to access. Arrange to visit during one of their regularly scheduled meetings, give the PowerPoint presentation, handout EPA's *Protect Your Pet* brochure, and submit an article in their newsletter (see sample).
- **Garden Clubs.** Gardeners have a wide range of pesticides at their disposal. However, they should use pesticides properly and never use anything before reading the instructions. They should be sure that the pesticide being used is proper for the pest and plant it is being used on. It is a good idea to limit the pesticide treatment to the targeted plants to avoid killing beneficial insects. Again, arrange to visit during one of the clubs regular meeting, handout EPA's *Protect Your Garden* brochure, give the PowerPoint presentation., and submit an article (see sample) to their newsletter.
- **Public Libraries.** Public libraries also offer an opportunity for outreach activities. You can request to set up an information display table with various brochures, children's activity sheets, and fact sheets. If the library has the necessary set up, you can also run the PowerPoint presentation.
- **Hobbyists.** People who are involved in a variety of art and craft processes should be aware of potentially hazardous supplies. This would include teachers, art studios, art and craft material supply stores. Try approaching these various audiences and asking if you can make a presentation on the importance of reading and understanding the product labels.

# Outreach Materials

This section provides different types of presentation materials, including:

➤ **Brochures and Logos**

These pages include an EPA poster, four EPA tri-fold brochure, and a page with various samples of the Read the Label *First!* logo. The brochures are also included on the CD-ROM in a pdf format. The poster and logos are available on the CD-ROM as graphic files. They can be copied and handed out as needed.

➤ **Outreach Promotional Materials**

➤ **Additional Resources**

➤ **PowerPoint Presentation**

This PowerPoint presentation can be used in various settings. At safety fairs, the presentation can run continuously to catch the eye and attention of fair-goers as they pass by. It can also be used to give presentations to civic organizations, such as the Rotary Club, Elks and Lions, Junior Leagues, Jaycees, and the Chamber of Commerce, at school functions such as PTA meetings or teachers' in-service programs, and to special audiences such as gardening clubs or kennel clubs. The presentation is available on the following pages in thumbnail format and electronically on the enclosed CD.

➤ **Web Pages**

If you already have a Web site, the following pages can be dropped into your existing template and uploaded. This can provide a quick and inexpensive addition to any of your outreach activities. The pages are provided on the CD-ROM already marked up in html (hyper-text mark-up language). The graphics are provided in a .gif format, making them Web-ready.

➤ **Children Activity Sheets**

The children's activities cover a range of ages. They can be copied and handed out at safety fairs, as part of outreach efforts in schools, at doctor's office, and in retail stores.



## Read the Label *First!* Logo



# Outreach Promotional Materials

- Bag Clips      Clips used to seal chip bags. Free up to 100 clips. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Booklet      *Preventing Accidental Poisonings* (teaches which home products are poisonous and how to handle emergencies). Member \$1.20, Non-member \$1.60. National Safety Council, (800) 621-7619, <http://secure.nsc.org/onlinecart/>.
- Booklet      *What You Need to Know About the Safety of Art & Craft Materials* (12-page booklet that answers commonly-asked questions about the safe use of materials). Single copies free. The Art and Creative Materials Institute, P.O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341, (781) 293-4100, Fax (781) 294-0808, [debbief@acminet.org](mailto:debbief@acminet.org).
- Booklet      *Join Our Pest Patrol: A Backyard Activity Book for Kids*, (24-page booklet) Unlimited free copies, teacher's guide also available. Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 90 West Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107, (651) 296-6121, [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us).
- Booklet      *Help Yourself to a Healthy Home*, (24-pages). First 20 copies are free, \$.60 for each additional one. Available in English and Spanish. University of Wisconsin, 303 Hiram Smith Hall, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-0024, [homeeasys@wex.edu](mailto:homeeasys@wex.edu), [www.uwex.edu/healthyhome](http://www.uwex.edu/healthyhome).
- Booklet      Surprise! A Cockroach! (12-page children's activity booklet). Free copies. Available in English and Spanish, National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Bookmark      Take a Virtual House Tour (EPA #735-H-01-002). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Brochure      Read the Label First! Protect Your Kids (EPA #740-F-00-001, brochure about protecting children from exposure to household cleaners and pesticides). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).

- Brochure Read the Label First! Protect Your Pets (EPA #740-F-00-002, brochure about protecting children from exposure to household cleaners and pesticides). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Brochure Read the Label First! Protect Your Garden (EPA #740-F-00-003, brochure about protecting children from exposure to household cleaners and pesticides). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Brochure Read the Label First! Protect Your Household (EPA #740-F-00-004, brochure about protecting children from exposure to household cleaners and pesticides). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Flash Cards Understanding Poisons (4" x 8 3/4" cards, six cards in brilliant colors explain the four forms of poison, with instructions on the back). One set of cards, \$2. Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Marketing Department, 3705 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, (412) 692-5016, [fnnmx@chp.edu](mailto:fnnmx@chp.edu).
- Jar Opener Free up to 100 openers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Magnets Free up to 100 magnets. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Pamphlet *Clean and Safe* (four-page guide to safe use and storage of household cleaning products). Up to 30 copies free. The Soap and Detergent Association, 1500 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 347-2900, [www.cleaning101.com](http://www.cleaning101.com).
- Pamphlet Tips on Child Safety (contains facts on proper use and life-saving effectiveness of safety caps, advice on how to instill safety consciousness in preschoolers and general home safety tips). Closure Manufacturers Association, P.O. Box 1358, Kilmarnock, VA 22482, [cmadc@rivnet.net](mailto:cmadc@rivnet.net).
- Pamphlet Home Safe Home (tips for parents on how to protect young children in the home environment). Available in Spanish. Up to 100 copies free. The Soap and Detergent Association, 1500 K Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 347-2900, [www.cleaning101.com](http://www.cleaning101.com).

- Pamphlet *Pesticides and Child Safety* (EPA #735-R-95-050R, contains tips on safe guarding children from accidental pesticide poisonings). Also available in Spanish. Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Poster Read the Label First! (EPA #735-H-00-001, 18" x 24"). Free copies. National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419, (800) 490-9198, [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom).
- Poster National Poison Prevention Week - 2003 (11" x 17"). 25 copies \$10, 50 copies \$18, 100 copies \$32, post paid. Poison Prevention Week Council, P.O. Box 1543, Washington, DC 20013, (800) 222-1222, [kgiles@cpsc.gov](mailto:kgiles@cpsc.gov).
- Rulers Free to 100 rulers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Stickers Emergency Telephone Stickers (has spaces to include doctor, pharmacy, and poison control numbers). Up to 50 copies free, 10 cents for requests over 50. Council on Family Health, 1155 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 331-7373, [www.cfinfo.org](http://www.cfinfo.org).
- Stickers Read the Label logo. Free up to 100 stickers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Stickers Mr. Yuk Stickers (teaches children to stay away from poisonous products). \$85 per 1,000. Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Marketing Department, 3705 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, (412) 692-5016, [finnmx@chp.edu](mailto:finnmx@chp.edu).
- Stickers Don't Put Harmful Pesticides in Harmless Containers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, email: [washington.annette@epa.gov](mailto:washington.annette@epa.gov).
- Video *The Travels of Timothy Trent* (explains that safety packaging is a valuable tool that offers an additional margin of safety from accidental poisoning of children). Order # AVA03690VNB1, \$50, 10 minutes. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Technical Information Service, National Audiovisual Center, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, (800) 553-6847.
- Video *Poison Proof Your Home* (shows parents/caregivers how to prevent child poisonings with a room-by-room, and step-by-step outline of what hazardous substances are available in a typical household). \$15, including shipping and handling, 30 minutes. Hyper.Active Media and Content, Inc., 1240 Bay Street, Suite 500, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5R 2A7, (416) 324-1771, [dyorke@hypn.com](mailto:dyorke@hypn.com).

# Additional Resources

The American Academy of Pediatrics and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The AAP has approximately 55,000 members in the United States, Canada and Latin America. 141 Northwest Point Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098, (847) 434-4000, (847) 434-8000 (Fax), <http://www.aap.org>

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) is a nationwide organization of poison centers and interested individuals. <http://www.aapcc.org>

The Internet Public Library site has children's activities and is a project of the University of Michigan chapter of the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, School of Education, and Internet Public Library. <http://www.ipl.org/youth/poisonsafe/>.

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) , a cooperative effort of Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has additional on information on more than 600 pesticide active ingredients incorporated into more than 50,000 different products registered for use in the United States since 1947. NPIC is a toll-free information service, (800) 858-7378, operated Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. EST. Oregon State University, 333 Weniger, Corvallis, OR 97331-6502, <http://npic.orst.edu/>.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission site has a variety of poison prevention publications available in both Web format and pdf format. [http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pois\\_prv.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pois_prv.html).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, has information on the Read the Label First campaign at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/labeling/campaign.htm>, and information on pesticides and child safety at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/citizens/childsaf.htm>. They also have an interactive Web site to teach about chemicals in the household at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/kids/hometour/>



## Preventing Accidental Poisonings in Your Home



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. When dealing with hazardous household products, read the label first!

Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms and some 900 deaths.

The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home.

Many common household products can be poisonous including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polish, lighter fluids, medicines, and supplements containing iron.



A poison is any substance that can cause an unintended symptom.

- A child is accidentally poisoned every 30 seconds.
- More than half of these poisonings occur at home to children under the age of five.
- Young children are poisoned most often by things commonly found in the home such as drugs and cleaning products.



Poisons can come in four forms:

- Solids (medicine pills, powders, granular pesticides, etc.)
- Liquids (soap, furniture polish, lighter fluid, syrup medicines, lotions, etc.)
- Sprays (spray paint, insecticides, cleaning products, etc.)
- Gas (carbon monoxide, air pollution, gas fumes, etc.)



Preventing poisonings is the best path for your safety and health.

In addition to danger of the poison, none of the medical procedures or drugs used to treat poisonings is risk-free.

Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.



### Read the Label

When you buy a product that can potentially be poisonous to people or pets (i.e., household cleaner, pesticides), Read the Label First! so you will:

- understand the intended use
- buy the proper amount
- know how to store unused portions
- know how to dispose of empty container



### Label Signal Words

On the label of all household hazardous products, you will find one of the following signal words

**CAUTION** indicates the lowest level of potential harm. It means that the product is not likely to produce permanent damage as a result of exposure, if appropriate first aid is given.

**WARNING** indicates a higher level of potential harm, meaning that you could become seriously ill or harmed. These products are required by law to be in child-resistant packaging.

### Label Signal Words



**DANGER** indicates the highest level of potential harm. Accidental exposure of the eye or skin of the product could produce tissue damage. Swallowing the product could produce damage to the mouth, throat, and stomach and even death. These products are required by law to be in child-resistant packaging. You may also find a skull-and-crossbones symbol along with words "Danger-Poison" on certain pesticides. This means the product is a systemic poison.

### Understanding the Label

Read before you buy to be sure you are buying the right product for the job.

PRODUCT NAME	
<p>KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN</p> <p>CAUTION</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>DANGER</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT:</p> <p>IF SWALLOWED:</p> <p>IF IN EYES:</p> <p>IF ON SKIN:</p> <p>IF ON CLOTHING:</p> <p>IF ON CARPET:</p> <p>IF ON FURNITURE:</p> <p>IF ON WALLS:</p> <p>IF ON CEILING:</p> <p>IF ON FLOOR:</p> <p>IF ON CURTAINS:</p> <p>IF ON BLINDS:</p> <p>IF ON SHUTTERS:</p> <p>IF ON DOORS:</p> <p>IF ON WINDOWS:</p> <p>IF ON GLASS:</p> <p>IF ON METAL:</p> <p>IF ON WOOD:</p> <p>IF ON PLASTER:</p> <p>IF ON CONCRETE:</p> <p>IF ON BRICK:</p> <p>IF ON TILE:</p> <p>IF ON STONE:</p> <p>IF ON MARBLE:</p> <p>IF ON GRANITE:</p> <p>IF ON CEMENT:</p> <p>IF ON GROUT:</p> <p>IF ON CAULK:</p> <p>IF ON ADHESIVE:</p> <p>IF ON SEALANT:</p> <p>IF ON PAINT:</p> <p>IF ON STAIN:</p> <p>IF ON VARNISH:</p> <p>IF ON POLISH:</p> <p>IF ON WAX:</p> <p>IF ON OIL:</p> <p>IF ON GREASE:</p> <p>IF ON SOAP:</p> <p>IF ON DETERGENT:</p> <p>IF ON DISINFECTANT:</p> <p>IF ON ANTISEPTIC:</p> <p>IF ON ANTI-BACTERIAL:</p> <p>IF ON FUNGICIDE:</p> <p>IF ON INSECTICIDE:</p> <p>IF ON RODENTICIDE:</p> <p>IF ON HERBICIDE:</p> <p>IF ON FERTILIZER:</p> <p>IF ON PESTICIDE:</p> <p>IF ON FUMIGANT:</p> <p>IF ON GASEOUS:</p> <p>IF ON LIQUID:</p> <p>IF ON SOLID:</p> <p>IF ON POWDER:</p> <p>IF ON PASTE:</p> <p>IF ON GEL:</p> <p>IF ON CREAM:</p> <p>IF ON LOTION:</p> <p>IF ON OINTMENT:</p> <p>IF ON SALVE:</p> <p>IF ON BALM:</p> <p>IF ON PASTE:</p> <p>IF ON GEL:</p> <p>IF ON CREAM:</p> <p>IF ON LOTION:</p> <p>IF ON OINTMENT:</p> <p>IF ON SALVE:</p> <p>IF ON BALM:</p>

Buy the proper amount so you can avoid storage and disposal of container and left over product properly.

Very important! Understand the potential dangers and keep out of the reach of children.

It is important to keep products in the original container in case of accidental poisoning so you can follow the first aid instructions and have the list of ingredients available to give to poison control.



### Tips to Keep Your Family Safe from Poisonings

- Keep poison control center (800/222-1222) and doctor's phone numbers handy.
- Keep products in original containers with labels so you have the first aid and active ingredient information in case of an accidental poisoning.
- Read the label and follow directions and precautions for safe and effective use, storage, disposal, and first aid.
- Use hazardous chemical products away from children, toys, food, and pets, as directed.



### Tips to Keep Your Family Safe from Poisonings

- Store products out of reach of children, even if you don't have small children. Many poisonings happen when children are visiting homes where no children live.
- Properly dispose of unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.
- Keep syrup of ipecac available, but use only when instructed to by a doctor or a poison control center.
- If a household chemical has been ingested, call the poison control center or doctor or follow the first aid instructions on the label. Have the label ready when you call.



### Tips to Keep Your Family Safe from Poisonings

- Never mix two products together unless you know it is safe
- Buy only the amount you need to do the job
- If you have play equipment or a deck that has been treated with CCA, you may want to seal it with an oil-based sealant. Always make sure your children wash their hands after playing with this equipment
- Keep pesticides in locked cabinets and out of the reach of children
- Never use more pesticides than is recommended on the label
- Look for ways to reduce unnecessary use of pesticides around the home



### Household Pesticides

A pesticide is any substance intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests include insects, mice and other animals, weeds, fungi, and microorganisms like bacteria and viruses.

By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms

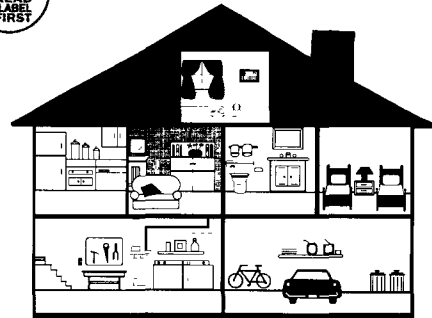


### Examples of Household Pesticides

- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Products that kill mold and mildew
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
- Insect repellants for personal use
- Rat and other rodent poisons
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers
- Some swimming pool chemicals



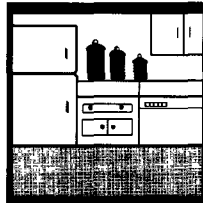
### Poisons: Room by Room



### Poisons in the Kitchen

Some items that might be found in the kitchen include

- Dishwashing detergent
- Liquid dish soap
- Window cleaner
- Oven cleaner
- Furniture polish
- Drain cleaner/opener
- Ammonia
- Vitamins and medicines



#### Keep your family safe by

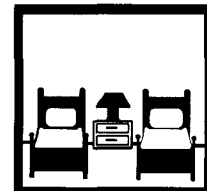
- installing safety latches on lower cupboards to keep youngsters out
- not placing cleaning compounds and food on same shelf
- keeping all substances in their original containers
- keeping cleaning compounds capped while using
- washing and/or peeling fruits and vegetables to reduce pesticide residues



### Poisons in the Bedroom

Some items that might be found in the bedroom include

- Mothballs
- Cosmetics
- Hair sprays
- Nail polish remover
- Colognes and perfumes
- Medicines



#### Keep your family safe by

- hanging mothballs and crystals in containers out of the reach of children
- keeping personal care items out of the reach of children
- not letting children play with perfumes, nail polish, and other cosmetics
- keeping medicine out of the reach of children

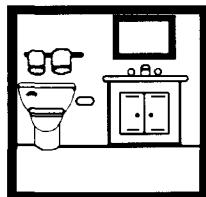




## Poisons in the Bathroom

Some items that might be found in the bedroom include

- Tile cleaner
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Mouthwash
- Personal care products
- Cosmetics
- Medicines



Keep your family safe by

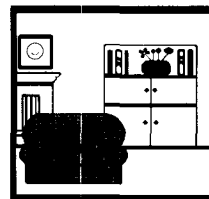
- having a child-proof section that locks for medicines
- keeping personal care items out of the reach of children
- storing cleaners out of the reach of children
- keeping cosmetics and mouthwash out of the reach of children



## Poisons in the Living Room

Some items that might be found in the living room include

- Items brought in by visitors
- Lead paint and dust on windowsills, walls, and old furniture and toys



Keep your family safe by

- hanging up visitors' jackets and coats
- storing visitors' bags out of the reach of children
- testing for lead paint in older homes
- not using baits or pesticide pellets in places where babies or toddlers can reach them



## Poisons in the Basement

Some items that might be found in the basement include

- Stain remover
- Paint thinner
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Fabric softener
- Dye



Keep your family safe by

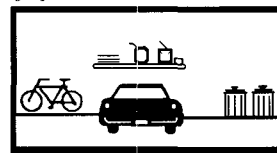
- storing hazardous products up high
- installing safety latches on cupboard doors
- keeping all substances in their original containers
- cleaning up spills and leaks immediately
- keeping cleaning compounds capped at all times



## Poisons in the Garage

Some items that might be found in the garage include

- Gasoline
- Car wax/soap
- Weed killer/pesticides
- Paint
- Windshield washer fluid
- Antifreeze
- Kerosene



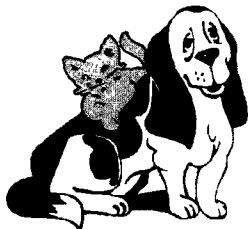
Keep your family safe by

- storing hazardous products up high
- installing safety latches on lower cupboard doors
- keeping all substances in their original containers
- cleaning up spills and leaks immediately
- keeping cleaning compounds capped at all times
- never burning or dumping leftover products on the ground
- giving leftover products to someone else to use
- finding out about your community's hazardous waste collection plants



## Keep Your Pets Safe, too!

- Poisonous antifreeze tastes sweet to dogs and cats
- clean up spills and leaks immediately
- Avoid using pesticides where pet food is stored or served
- Store car and cleaning compounds in a safe area
- Avoid feeding pets human food - chocolate can poison a dog. Onions are potentially harmful



## First Aid for Poisoning

- In the case of an emergency, try to determine what the person was exposed to and what part of the body was affected before you take action
- If the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing, or having convulsions, give needed first aid immediately
- Call 911 or your local emergency service
- If the person is awake, conscious, not having trouble breathing, and not having convulsions, read the label for first aid instructions and contact the nation-wide toll-free number (800/222-1222), or your doctor



### First Aid for Poisoning

#### Swallowed poison

Call the nation-wide poison control center at (800) 222-1222. Always keep syrup of ipecac on hand (one ounce for each child in the household) to use to induce vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel. Be sure the date is current. **Induce vomiting ONLY if emergency personnel tell you to do so.** Some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the person is made to vomit.



### First Aid for Poisoning

#### Inhaled poison

Carry or drag person to fresh air immediately. If you think you need protection such as a respirator and one is not available to you, call 911 and wait for emergency equipment before entering the area. Loosen person's tight clothing. If the person's skin is blue or the person has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (if you know how) and call 911 for help. Open doors and windows so no one else will be poisoned by fumes.



### First Aid for Poisoning

#### Poison in eye

If poison splashes into an eye, hold the eyelid open and wash quickly and gently with clean running water from the tap or a gentle stream from a hose for at least 15 minutes. Eye damage can occur in a few minutes with some types of toxic chemicals. If possible, have someone else contact a poison control center for you while the victim is being treated. Do not use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.



### First Aid for Poisoning

#### Poison on skin

If toxic chemicals splash on the skin, drench area with water and remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.



### Disposal of Hazardous Household Chemicals

If product is in a pressurized container  
Do Not Puncture or Incinerate!

If empty: Place in trash or offer for recycling if available

If partly filled: Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions

If product is in a non-pressurized container

This includes liquids and solids (tablets, dusts, gels, pet products, etc.) in all other types of product containers (e.g., bags, boxes, bottles, cans, bait stations, squeeze tubes, etc.)

If empty: Do not reuse this container. Place in trash or offer for recycling if available

If partly filled: Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down any indoor or outdoor drain





### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. Although exposure to hazardous substances is scary and dangerous at any age, children have a special vulnerability that heightens the danger.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2001 alone, an estimated 66,000 children under the age of six were involved in common household chemical-related poisonings or exposures in the United States.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

Children's bodies, behaviors, and size make them different from and more vulnerable than adults to many environmental health hazards. In proportion to their size, children breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food than adults. This means that they are potentially at greater risk of exposure to pesticides.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

A child is at greater risk for a number of reasons:

- Children's immune systems are less developed and may be less protective than adults' immune systems.
- Their cells are more easily damaged because they are not fully developed, and during the rapid growth of childhood, cells divide very quickly, making it more likely that a cellular mutation will be reproduced, and possibly cause cancer.
- With a long life ahead, any problems will have a greater length of time in which to progress.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

Pesticides may accumulate on floors either because they are applied on surfaces near floors or because they are tracked into the house on shoes. Because children are lower to the ground, their breathing areas may have higher concentrations of pesticides than adult breathing areas. Children's tendency to put their hands and other objects into their mouth may also put them at higher risk of exposure to pesticides.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

The most common accidental oral exposures occur when pesticides have been removed from their original containers and placed into an unlabeled bottle, jar or food container. The child does not realize until too late that the unmarked container holds a potentially toxic pesticide.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

In addition to the danger of the poison, none of the medical treatments for poisonings is risk-free. Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

Some of the substances involved in exposures to children under the age of six include:

- adhesives and glues
- art and crafts supplies
- office supplies
- batteries
- cleaning substances
- cosmetics
- personal care items
- deodorizers
- fertilizers
- paints
- stripping agents
- plants
- pesticides
- medicines and vitamins
- polishes and waxes
- tobacco products



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

Because children do not read, understand or pay attention to warning signs on hazardous household chemicals, it is important the adult read and understand the label before purchasing or using any household chemical

When you buy a product that is potentially poisonous, read the label first so you will

- understand the intended use
- buy the proper amount
- know how to store unused portions
- how to dispose of empty containers.



### Poison Prevention Information for Parents

➤ Always keep the product in the original container so it is not mistaken for another product, and so you have the label's first aid information in the event of an accidental poisoning.

➤ Store products out the reach of children and get rid on unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.

➤ Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number, (800) 222-1222, and your doctor's phone number beside every phone in your home.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

According to the the Animal Poison Control Center, thousand of cats and dogs needlessly suffer and many die each year by accidental ingestion of household poisons, including houseplants and common foods.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

- Be careful in your selection of plants for your home and yard. The ingestion of certain plants by an animal can be fatal.
- Keep your pets from areas where you are cleaning. Common household cleaners have a variety of properties; some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach.
- Store all cleaners, pesticides, and medications in a secured area.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

- Most pest baits contain ingredients that can attract your pets. When using rat, mouse, snail or slug baits, or ant or roach traps, place the products in areas that your pet can't reach
- Never give your pet medication unless told to by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals
- Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pet's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

- Food items that potentially could be dangerous to pets include onions, onion powder, chocolate, alcoholic beverages, yeast dough, coffee, tea, salt, macadamia nuts, tomato leaves and stems (green parts), rhubarb leaves, avocados, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, moldy or spoiled foods.
- Many common household items (i.e., mothballs, potpourri oils, pennies, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, and batteries) can be dangerous to animals.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

- Automotive products such as gasoline, oil, and antifreeze should be stored in areas that pets can't reach. Some of them have a sweet taste that is attractive to animals. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a 20-pound dog.
- Before buying a flea product, consult your veterinarian.
- Read all of the information on the label before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow the directions.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

- Do not mix the use of products between animals. If a product is labeled for use for a cat, don't use it on a dog and if labeled for a dog, do not use it on a cat.
- Make sure your pet can not enter areas in which insecticidal foggers or house sprays have been applied for the period of time indicated on the label.
- If you are uncertain about the proper usage of any product, contact the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.
- Do not use more pesticides than is recommended on the product label.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners

If you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a hazardous substance, seek medical attention immediately.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has an Animal Poison Control Center, (888) 426-4435, which is staffed by veterinarians and veterinary toxicologists. The Center operates 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. The Center has no state or federal funding, so there is \$45.00 fee for the call.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

Proper lawn maintenance such as fertilizing, watering, aeration, and thatch removal will help keep your lawn healthy and reduce the need for chemicals. Remember there are many beneficial insects that do not cause harm, and which actually eat harmful insects. Be sure to investigate alternative solutions before resorting to chemical means.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

If a chemical control is necessary, *read the label first*. When you read the label, you will

- understand the intended use,
- buy the proper amount,
- know how to store unused portions, and
- know how to dispose of the empty container.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

Before using a pesticide, remove pet bowls, children's toys, and other objects from the area to be sprayed. Put on protective gear.

Wearing protective clothing and equipment when handling or applying pesticides reduces the risk of pesticide poisoning because the chance of exposure is reduced.

At a minimum, when using pesticides, you should wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, long sleeves, and long pants. Depending on the type of pesticide and your individual sensitivity, you might also want to wear goggles or a respirator.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

- Mix the pesticides in a well-ventilated area, and only use the recommended amount. Using twice the amount of pesticide will not make the pest twice as dead, but can cause harm to other living organisms.
- Immediately recap any unused portion, keeping it in its original container.
- Storage in a safe place out of the reach of children in a cupboard with a lock or a safety latch.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

- Spray when there is little wind to avoid herbicide drift, since many flowering plants, trees, and shrubs are susceptible to herbicides.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while applying pesticides.
- Keep children, pets, and other adults out of the area while you are spraying.
- Don't use more pesticides than is recommended on the product label.



### Poison Prevention Tips for Gardeners

When you are finished applying the pesticide, clean all equipment, gloves, and goggles. Wash the protective clothing separately from other laundry and shower and shampoo as soon as possible.

Most people are more exposed to pesticides at home than anywhere else. They track lawn-applied products into the house even a week or more after they apply them. The pesticide builds up in carpets, furniture, etc.

Children who play on the floor may be at greatest risk. Vacuuming removes about one-third of contaminated dust. A doormat helps, but it's best to remove your shoes.

# National Poison Prevention Week

will be celebrated

March 16-22, 2003

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## Resources and Links

[Types of Poisons in the Home](#)  
[How to Prevent Poisonings in Your Home](#)  
[Poison Prevention Tips](#)  
[First Aid for Poisoning](#)  
[Pesticides](#)  
[Understanding a Pesticide Label](#)  
[How Hazardous? The Terms](#)  
[Pesticide Regulations](#)  
[Disposal of Hazardous Products](#)

Additional information is available on  
[EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and  
Toxic Substances Web site.](#)

President Kennedy signed an act of Congress into law on September 16, 1961, making the third week of March Poison Prevention Week. Shortly thereafter, the Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate the annual event. Congress intended this event as a means for local communities to raise awareness about the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to encourage prevention measures.

We are working to raise awareness of the importance of reading labels on household cleaners, pesticides, and insecticides. The label helps you buy the right amount of the right chemical; tells you how to use, store, and dispose of it properly; gives first aid information; and provides other important information.

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# Types of Poisons in the Home

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As consumers, we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products -- materials used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, exterminating insects, and killing weeds. These items are valuable in the home and for yard maintenance. Misuse, especially when products are used in inappropriate applications or quantities, can cause illness, injury, and even death.

Unintentional poisonings can happen to anyone, at any time, in many situation. Home unintentional poisonings, however, can be prevented. Following label directions for all products, including medication dosages, and proper storage of potentially toxic products are important precautions to heed.

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests include insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses.

Many household products are pesticides, including:

- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Insect repellents for personal use
- Rat and other rodent poisons
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars
- Products that kill mold and mildew
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers
- Some swimming pool chemicals

Here are some common kinds of pesticides and their function:

- **Algicides** - Control algae in lakes, canals, swimming pools, water tanks, and other sites.
- **Antifouling agents** - Kill or repel organisms that attach to underwater surfaces, such as boat bottoms.
- **Antimicrobials** - Kill microorganisms (such as bacteria and viruses).
- **Attractants** - Attract pests (for example, to lure an insect or rodent to a trap).
- **Biocides** - Kill microorganisms.
- **Disinfectants and sanitizers** - Kill or inactivate disease-producing microorganisms on inanimate objects.
- **Fungicides** - Kill fungi (including blights, mildews, molds, and rusts).
- **Fumigants** - Produce gas or vapor intended to destroy pests in buildings or soil.
- **Herbicides** - Kill weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted.
- **Insecticides** - Kill insects and other arthropods.
- **Miticides** (also called acaricides) - Kill mites that feed on plants and animals.
- **Microbial pesticides** - Microorganisms that kill, inhibit, or out compete pests, including insects or other microorganisms.
- **Molluscicides** - Kill snails and slugs.
- **Nematicides** - Kill nematodes (microscopic, worm-like organisms that feed on plant roots).
- **Ovicides** - Kill eggs of insects and mites.
- **Pheromones** - Biochemicals used to disrupt the mating behavior of insects.
- **Repellents** - Repel pests, including insects (such as mosquitoes) and birds.
- **Rodenticides** - Control mice and other rodents.

# How to Prevent Poisonings in Your Home

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As consumers, we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products that are used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, exterminating insects, and killing weeds. These items are valuable in the home and for yard maintenance. Misuse, especially when products are used in inappropriate applications or quantities, can cause illness, injury, and even death.

Each year more than 6,000 people die and an estimated 300,000 suffer disabling illnesses as a result of unintentional poisoning by solid and liquid substances. Unintentional poisonings can happen to anyone, at any time, in any situation.

Poisonings, however, can be prevented. While child-resistant packaging has greatly reduced the number of fatalities among children under five years of age, parents, grandparents, and other caregivers must still be cautious. Following label directions for all products, including medication dosages, and proper storage of potentially toxic products are important precautions to heed.

## Statistics

- Poisonings from solids and liquids such as drugs, medicines, poisonous houseplants, cleaning products, and pesticides caused 6,300 deaths in the home in 1998 alone.
- An additional 500 deaths in the home in 1998 were due to poisonings from gases and vapors such as carbon monoxide.
- These deaths are not all among children. Another age group at risk is adults age 25 through 44. Many adults are unintentionally poisoned when they do not follow label directions on medications or household chemicals.

You can keep yourself and family members safer by being aware of potential hazards and observing these suggestions from the National Safety Council on ways to poison-proof your home.

## Bathroom

- Have a child-proof cabinet that locks, even if your medicine cabinet is "high up." Youngsters are inquisitive and avid climbers. They can easily reach a cabinet by climbing from the toilet (or other convenient object) to the sink and thus reach into the cabinet.
- Use child-resistant caps and keep medication lids tightly closed. A child-resistant cap is meaningless if not properly fastened after each use.
- Never take medication in front of a child, or refer to pills as candy. Kids often mimic adults. Also, something that tastes awful to an adult may not faze a small child.
- Always follow the recommended dosage set forth by your doctor for all medications.
- Some mouthwashes contain enough alcohol to poison small children. Consider alternative products.
- Some toilet bowl cleansers are dangerously caustic and capable of burning tissue if ingested.

## Bedroom

- Mothballs and crystals should be hung in containers. If such products are used in closets or chests, they should be out of the reach of toddlers.
- Keep personal care items such as hair spray, cologne, perfumes, nail polish remover, nail glue remover, and astringents where children can't get them.

## Living Room

- People who visit may carry medications in coat pockets, jackets, and purses, all of which are perfect hunting grounds for a curious child. Hang garments and store purses where children are not likely to get at them.
- Children may be exposed to different lead sources in your home. Small children may chew on window sills, eat paint chips, or suck on their hands or toys, "exposing themselves to lead dust. Lead poisoning can cause serious medical problems, especially in young children. Be sure your home is lead safe.

## Kitchen

- Check under the sink and in cabinets. Look for stored products that could be hazardous when accessible to young children. These could include such items as bleaching agents, rust removers, drain cleaners, ammonia, oven cleaners, detergents, furniture polish, floor wax, metal polish, wax remover, and wall/floor/toilet bowl cleaners. Even food extracts, such as vanilla and almond, which may contain alcohol, can be harmful to children. If products cannot be moved, install safety latches on cupboard doors to keep inquisitive youngsters out.
- Cleaning compounds and foods should never be stored together.
- Keep all substances in their original containers. Using beverage bottles or cans for storing cleaning fluids, liquid floor wax, and other household mixtures is very hazardous. Children, and even adults, might mistake the contents for the original beverage. Also, labels on original containers give important usage and safety information.
- Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped. Do not leave an uncapped container unattended even "just a minute" if toddlers are present.

## Additional Precautions

- Keep the number of the national toll-free number, **800-222-1222**, or family doctor posted near the telephone. Have the original container and its label handy when you call.
- Keep syrup of ipecac available but use only when instructed to by a doctor or poison control center.
- Use safety latches or combination locks to prevent curious children from getting into cabinets and drawers. Don't let children watch you open them. Kids learn fast.
- Many poisonings of youngsters happen when the household routine has been interrupted. Examples of such changes include: when a parent is ill; when a family is moving; when a family is on a trip; when there is a guest in the home; when there is family tension; when seasonal products are in use. In addition, hungry or tired children are prone to putting the first available object they find into their mouths.
- Throw out unneeded or expired medicines (over-the-counter and prescriptions). Look for the expiration date. Out-of-date medications may be ineffective and/or dangerous.
- For handling poisonings and other emergencies, everyone should be trained in first aid.

## Especially for Older Adults

- Request medicine labels be printed in larger type.
- If one type of child-restraint closure is difficult to use, ask your pharmacist for a different kind (especially if there are young children around).
- Make sure you are taking the medicine you intended; turn on the lights and double-check the label, especially when you are sleepy or sick.
- Avoid dosage errors - use dosage containers indicating day of week and/or time of day; don't leave it to memory.
- If you are taking two or more medications (prescription or over-the-counter), be sure to check with your pharmacist to avoid unexpected drug interactions.
- Consider a dedicated medicine storage area - even if there are no kids in the house.

## **Pets are Susceptible, Too!**

- Poisonous anti-freeze tastes sweet to dogs and cats - clean up spills and leaks immediately and store containers carefully.
- Avoid feeding pets human food - chocolate can poison and kill a dog. Onions are potentially harmful. Pets are healthier eating food specially formulated for what they need.
- Don't spray or store cleaning or pesticide products near pet food or water dishes.
- Make sure animals can't get at bait products while they are in use.
- In the event of a spill, be sure to keep animals out of the area until it is cleaned up.
- Don't forget about wildlife. Spraying products on a windy day can carry the product into the water supply for wild animals.

# Poison Prevention Tips

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Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms and some 900 deaths. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home.

Many common household products can be poisonous including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polish, lighter fluids, medicines, and supplements containing iron.

Some tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep the national toll-free number, **800-222-1222**, and your doctor phone numbers handy.
- Keep products in original containers with labels.
- Read the label and follow directions and precautions for safe and effective use, storage, and first aid.
- Use hazardous chemical products away from children, toys, food, and pets, as directed.
- Store products out of reach of children, even if you don't have small children. Many poisonings happen when children are visiting homes where no children live.
- Properly dispose of unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.
- Keep syrup of ipecac available, but **use only when instructed to by a doctor or a poison control center**.
- If a household chemical has been ingested, call the poison control center or doctor or follow the first aid instructions on the label. Have the label ready when you call.

# First Aid for Poisoning

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## **Swallowed poison**

Call the national toll-free poison control center at **(800) 222-1222**. Always keep syrup of ipecac on hand (1 ounce for each child in the household) to use to induce vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel. Be sure the date is current. Induce vomiting **ONLY** if emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. It will depend on what the child has swallowed; some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the child is made to vomit.

## **Poison in eye**

If poison splashes into an eye, hold the eyelid open and wash quickly and gently with clean running water from the tap or a gentle stream from a hose for at least 15 minutes. Eye damage can occur in a few minutes with some types of toxic chemical. If possible, have someone else contact a poison control center, while the victim is being treated. Do not use eye drops or chemicals or drugs in the wash water.

## **Poison on skin**

If toxic chemicals splashes on the skin, drench area with water and remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.

## **Inhaled poison**

Carry or drag victim to fresh air immediately. If you think you need protection such as a respirator and one is not available to you, call the fire department and wait for emergency equipment before entering the area. Loosen victim's tight clothing. If the victim's skin is blue or the victim has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (if you know how) and call rescue service for help. Open doors and windows so no one else will be poisoned by fumes.

# Pesticides

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## What Are Pesticides?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses. Many household products are pesticides, including:

- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Insect repellents for personal use.
- Rat and other rodent poisons.
- Flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars.
- Kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers.
- Products that kill mold and mildew.
- Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers.
- Some swimming pool chemicals.

By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect pests. At the same time, pesticides are useful to society because of their ability to kill potential disease-causing organisms and control insects, weeds, and other pests.

## Where Are They Found?

Pesticides are potential hazards in many buildings because they are widely used to reduce many household pests, including those associated with indoor plants, pets, and wood and woolen products, and because they are tracked in from the outdoors. Pesticides used in and around the home include products to control insects (insecticides), termites (termiteicides), rodents (rodenticides), fungi (fungicides), and microbes (disinfectants). They are sold as liquids, sprays, powders, crystals, balls, and foggers.

Surveys show that 75 percent of homes in the United States use at least one pesticide product indoors per year. Those most often used are insecticides and disinfectants. However, studies suggest that 80 to 90 percent of exposures to pesticides occur indoors and that measurable levels of up to a dozen pesticides have been found in the air inside homes. Residential exposure results not only from the use of pesticides in the home but also from pesticides coming into the house from other sources.

## What Are the Health Effects?

Potential human risks include acute effects that manifest immediately after exposure to a pesticide and chronic effects that result from long-term exposures to pesticides. Acute effects of exposure to pesticides, commonly referred to as "pesticide poisoning," are most often result of pesticide misuse, including application of pesticides in a manner inconsistent with product label instructions. Acute exposure effects include skin rash, headache, dizziness, muscle pain and stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting, and breathing difficulties. Since some of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning are be similar to those characteristic of the flu or other disease, if you have one or more of these symptoms, it is important to tell your doctor if these symptoms first appeared after using or being exposed to a pesticide. EPA estimates there are approximately 250-500 physician-diagnosed cases of pesticide poisoning each year for each 100,000 agricultural workers. Data collected from Poison Control Centers found that, in 2001, an estimated 66,000 children were involved in common household pesticide-related poisoning or exposure incidents.

Chronic health effects resulting from long-term exposure to pesticides are also a concern. These health effects may include potential carcinogenicity, reproductive effects, and effects on the central nervous system. EPA has banned or eliminated exposure to a number of pesticides suspected to have chronic human health effects. A significant epidemiological study begun in 1993, called the Agricultural Health Study, is monitoring the health of about 90,000 pesticide handlers to determine whether any particular pesticide exposure leads to cancer, reproductive effects, or other chronic effects. In general, EPA and public health professionals recommend the public limit their exposure to pesticides because, despite all the testing, it is not usually possible to rule out a pesticides potential contribution to chronic disease.

In 2000, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that more than 1,294,000 children, 12 years old and younger, were involved in common household pesticide poisonings or exposures. In households with children, almost one-half stored at least one pesticide product within reach of the children.

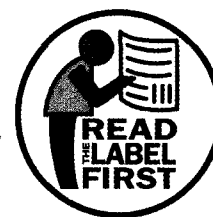
### **How Can You Reduce Exposure to Pesticides in Your Home?**

To reduce risks when you are using pesticides, take these precautions:

- Buy only legally sold, EPA-registered pesticides.
- Reread the directions on the label each time you use the pesticide and follow the directions carefully. Use only the amount directed, at the time and under the conditions specified, and for the purpose listed.
- Use nonchemical methods of pest control when possible.
- Identify the pest and use a pesticide targeted for that pest.
- Ventilate the area during and after pesticide use.
- Dispose of unused pesticides safely.
- Anyone considering the use of a pest control company should receive satisfactory answers to questions about the company's track record, insurance coverage, licenses, affiliation to professional pest control associations, and the proposed treatment. Questions regarding pesticide use and safety may be referred to the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-PEST.



# Understanding a Pesticide Label



Always read the label first! The label helps you buy the right amount of the right chemical; tells you how to store and dispose of it properly; gives first aid information; and provides other important information.

## 1. Directions for Use

This section tells you what the pesticide product controls, when, how, and where to use the product. Often the product's manufacturer has included a booklet with the container. Some manufacturers also provide a toll-free number for consumers to use to obtain additional information on their products.

## 2. Precautionary Statements, Hazard to Humans and Domestic Animals

This section describes potential hazards to people and pets and actions you can take to reduce those hazards, for example, wearing gloves. These statements may also provide extra information on how to protect your children or pets.

## 3. Environmental Hazards

If the product is potentially harmful to wildlife, fish, endangered plants or animals, or may adversely impact wetlands or water resources, this section will provide additional information on what to do to avoid environmental damage.

## 4. Physical or Chemical Hazards

This section notes hazards such as corrosivity or flammability of the product. For example, if the pesticide is flammable, the product should not be used or stored near open flames.

## 5. Storage and Disposal

This section tells you how to best store the product and what to do with the unused portion of the product and the empty container.

## 6. Signal Words

On the label, you will find one of the following signal words: Caution, Warning, or Danger. The signal word indicates the pesticide's potential hazard level to humans, with Caution being the least harmful and Danger the most harmful.

PRODUCT NAME	
1	<b>DIRECTIONS FOR USE</b> It is a violation of Federal Law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.
2	<b>PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS</b> <b>HAZARD TO HUMANS</b> <b>(AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS)</b> <b>DANGER</b>
3	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS</b>
4	<b>PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS</b>
5	<b>STORAGE AND DISPOSAL</b> <b>STORAGE</b> <b>DISPOSAL</b>
6	<b>KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN</b> <b>DANGER</b>
7	<b>FIRST AID</b> <b>(STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT)</b> IF SWALLOWED _____ IF INHALED _____ IF IN EYES _____ IF ON SKIN _____
8	<b>ACTIVE INGREDIENTS</b> _____ %
9	<b>OTHER INERT INGREDIENTS</b> _____ % <b>TOTAL:</b> _____ <b>100.00%</b>
10	<b>THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS XX LBs. OF XXXX PER GALLON</b>
11	<b>MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS</b>
12	<b>NET WEIGHT (CONTAINER'S GROSS WEIGHT)</b>
13	<b>EPA Registration No. EPA Reg. No.</b>
14	<b>EPA Establishment No. EPA Est. No.</b>

## **7. First Aid Instructions**

This section tells you what to do first if someone accidentally swallows or breathes the pesticide, or gets it on their skin or in their eyes. Labels may also contain a section labeled "Note to Physicians," which provides doctors with specific medical information.

## **8. Active Ingredients**

This section identifies the active ingredient(s) in the product. The active ingredient controls the pests listed on the label.

## **9. Other Ingredients (Inert Ingredients)**

This section tells you the percentage of other ingredients (sometimes called inert ingredients) in the product. The names of the other ingredients may not be shown on the label. These other ingredients do not control the pest, but serve other purposes, such as dissolving the active ingredient or affecting how the product works.

## **10. Warranty Statement**

This statement is intended to limit a company's liability, or to act as a disclaimer or as a warranty for the product.

## **11. Manufacturer's Address**

This section shows the name and address, and sometimes phone number, of the manufacturer or distributor of the product.

## **12. Net Weight/Net Content Statement**

This section identifies how much pesticide product is in the container.

## **13. EPA Registration Number**

All pesticides products sold in the United States must be registered with the EPA. The registration number shows the product has been reviewed by the EPA and that the EPA has determined the product can be used with minimal risk if you follow the directions on the label properly. The number is not an endorsement or guarantee of product effectiveness.

## **14. EPA Establishment Number**

This section gives the number which identifies the particular facility where the final phase of production of the pesticide product took place.

# Pesticide Regulations

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By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. At the same time, pesticides are useful to society because of their ability to kill potential disease-causing organisms and control insects, weeds, and other pests. In the United States, the Office of Pesticide Programs within the Environmental Protection Agency is chiefly responsible for regulating pesticides. Biologically-based pesticides, such as pheromones and microbial pesticides, are becoming increasingly popular and often are safer than traditional chemical pesticides.

EPA registers and regulates pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Before a company can sell or distribute any pesticide in the United States of America, EPA must review studies on the pesticide to determine that it will not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment. To make such determinations, EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants. Once EPA has made that determination, it will license or register that pesticide for use in strict accordance with label directions.

## **Child-Resistant Packaging**

Since 1981, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act has required most residential-use pesticides with a signal word of "danger" or "warning" to be in child-resistant packaging. These are the pesticides that are most toxic to children. Child-resistant packaging is designed to prevent most children under the age of five from gaining access to the pesticide, or at least delay their access. However, individuals must also take precautions to protect children from accidental pesticide poisonings or exposures and take the time to understand the label.

# Disposal of Hazardous Products

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Many state laws, municipal codes, local practices, and educational programs, have addressed the issue of instructing consumers how to dispose of household hazardous waste and containers. The most frequent recommendation directs consumers to contact local waste management authorities for advice on what to do with particular containers. Many states have passed laws limiting the types of waste that can be put in their landfills, sometimes excluding all hazardous waste, regardless of source. States and municipalities across the country have created more than 4,000 hazardous household waste collection events and facilities, and that number continues to grow. Some products, such as used motor oil, can be recycled and reused. Consumers are also encouraged to buy only the amount of the product they need.

Limiting the amount of hazardous waste materials or removing them from the solid waste stream allows municipalities to reduce the potential for accidental exposures to sanitation workers, materials recovery facility workers, landfill workers, and the environment.

Some general guidance for disposal is outlined below.

## Products in pressurized containers

- Do Not Puncture or Incinerate!
- If empty: Place in trash or offer for recycling if available.
- If partly filled: Call your local solid waste agency for disposal instructions.

## Products in non-pressurized containers

This includes liquids and solids (tablets, dusts, gels, pet products, etc.) in all other types of product containers (e.g., bags, boxes, bottles, cans, bait stations, squeeze tubes, etc.)

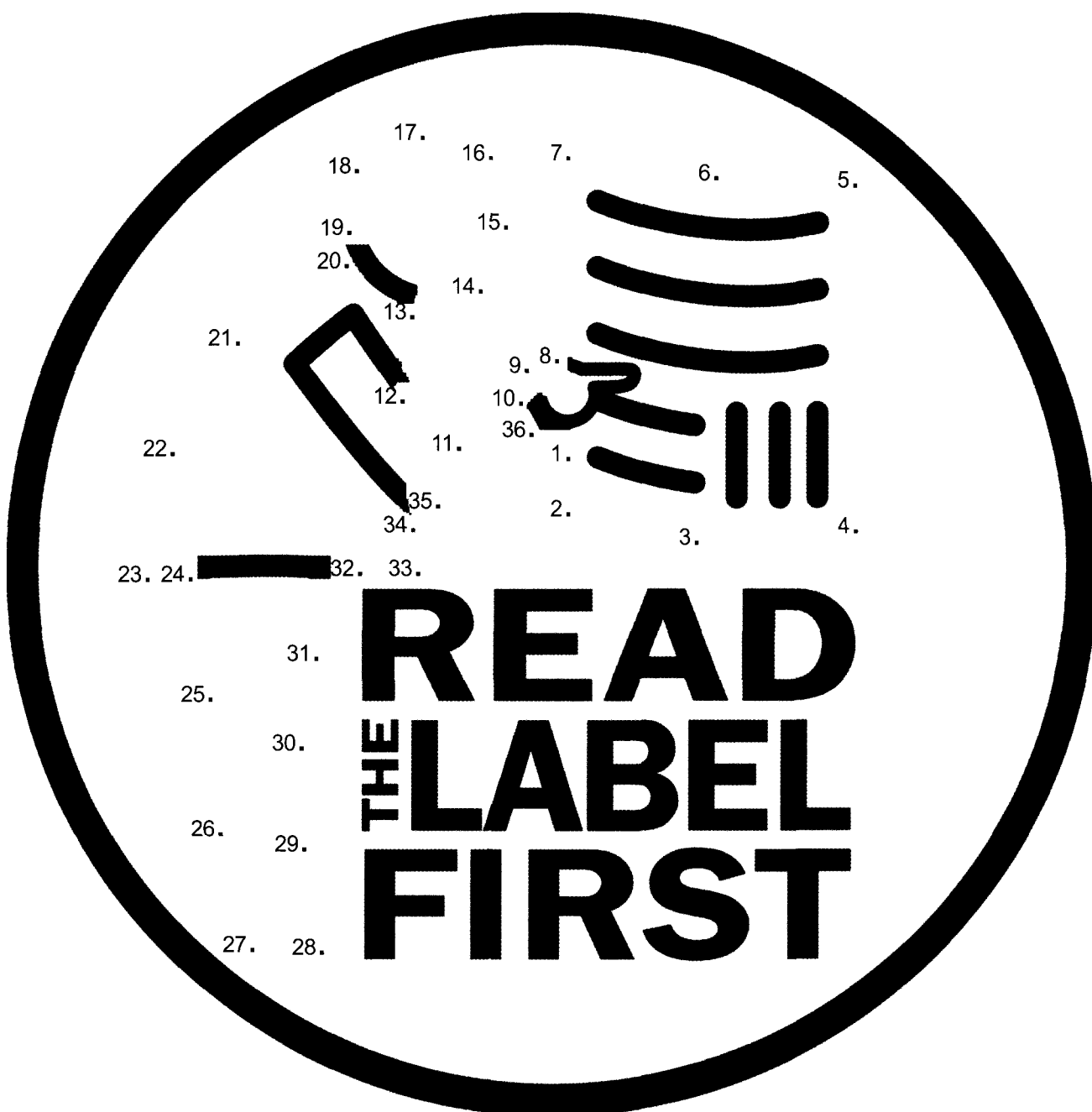
- If empty: Do not reuse this container. Place in trash or offer for recycling if available.
- If partly filled: Call your local solid waste agency or for disposal instructions. Never place unused product down any indoor or outdoor drain.

The phrase “call your local solid waste agency” is intended to direct consumers to contact their local government agency responsible for waste management in order to receive instructions on how to properly dispose of the product in their area. Disposal instructions and reuse and recycling capabilities vary from municipality to municipality. For more information on disposal of hazardous products where you live, call Earth 911 at 800-CLEANUP or visits [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org).

In the past, consumers had been directed to “securely wrap original container in several layers of newspaper and discard in trash.” However, wrapping containers prior to disposal in the trash does not appear to provide reliable protection to sanitation workers as intended and may result in accidental or unknown exposures. Consumers were also previously instructed to rinse their empty containers, but experience has shown that many consumers were confused by rinsing procedures and often incorrectly disposed of the rinse water down the drain or down sewers. States have reported detecting some pesticides in drinking water that appear, in some cases, to be linked to disposal or rinsing in residential waste water systems. There is also the potential risk of adverse chemical reactions occurring when products are poured down drains, singly, or in combination with other products. In addition, storage of rinse water is highly discouraged because of the absence of adequate labeling or packaging.

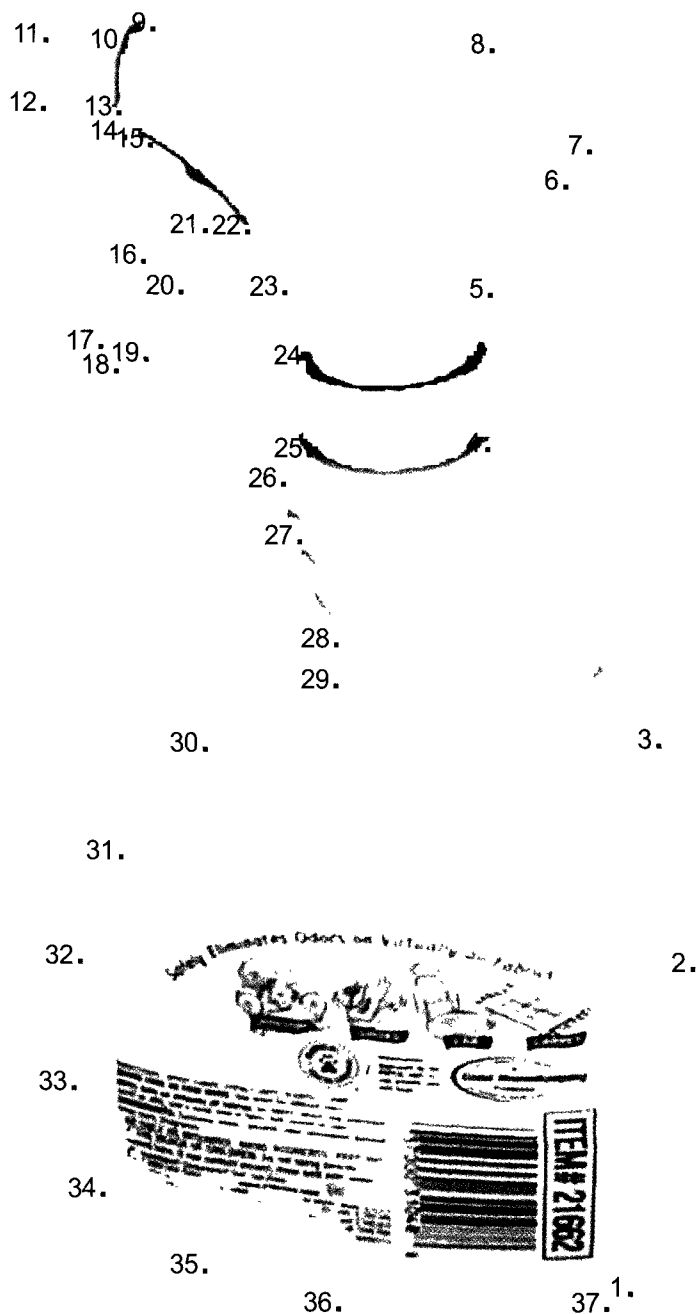
*Children's Activity ...*

## Connect the Dots and Color



## Children's Activity ...

# Connect the Dots and Circle the Label



## Children's Activity ...

### Word Search

SLASOPSIDDDNGDR  
DRENICIDEMONAO  
NIESTORAGEIINT  
OLANMOUTHWTNGC  
SALTAPESOBUREO  
IBARSEGLACAAARD  
OETMERLZLECWEH  
PLCAOAICSAFETY  
SJHLWEMFEYESVJ  
KUWSMRAHTRUHJD  
IMZPYALECRYMQJ  
NRFKQREADDIUJR

CAUTION  
CLEANERS  
DANGER  
DISPOSAL  
DOCTOR

EYES  
FIRST AID  
HARM  
HURT  
LABEL

LATCH  
MEDICINE  
MOUTH  
POISON  
READ

SAFETY  
SKIN  
STORAGE  
SWALLOW  
WARNING

### **Children's Activity ...**

## Make Words from the Phrase: Accidental Poisoning Prevention

[illegible]



## Children's Activity ...

# Secret Message

Using the code key below, decipher the secret message about poison safety.

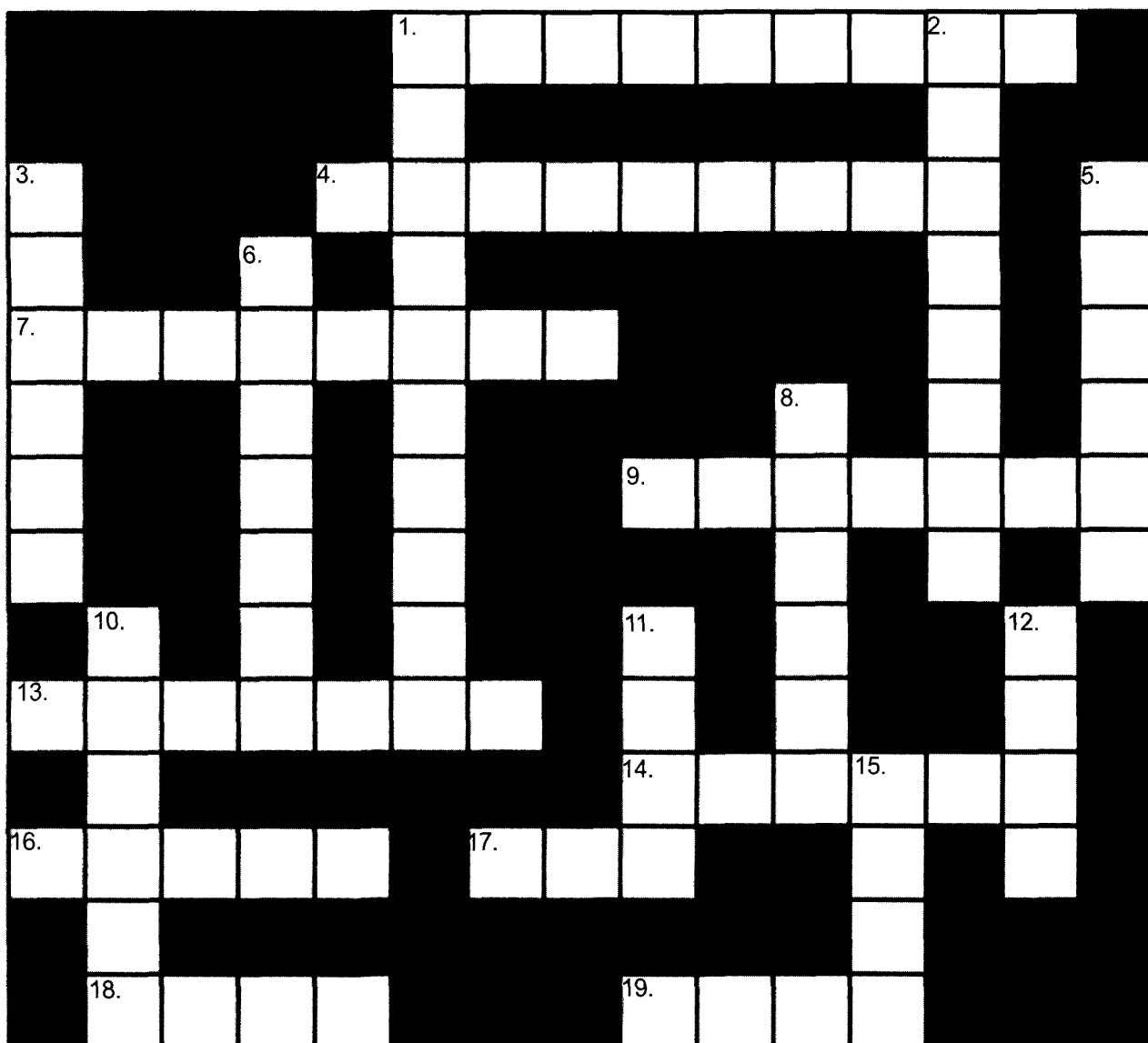
### CODE:

26 = A	19 = H	12 = O	5 = V
25 = B	18 = I	11 = P	4 = W
24 = C	17 = J	10 = Q	3 = X
23 = D	16 = K	9 = R	2 = Y
22 = E	15 = L	8 = S	1 = Z
21 = F	14 = M	7 = T	
20 = G	13 = N	6 = U	

26 13 12 6 13 24 22 12 21 11 9 22 5 22 13 7 18 12 13 18 8  
4 12 9 7 19 26 11 12 6 13 23 12 21 24 6 9 22. 7 12  
11 9 22 5 22 13 7 26 24 24 18 23 22 13 7 26 15  
11 12 18 8 12 13 18 13 20 8, 9 22 26 23 7 19 22 15 26 25 22 15  
21 18 9 8 7!

## Children's Activity ...

# Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1. A product that kills pests
4. Never call this candy
7. A household product that gets rid of dirt, but could be harmful if swallowed
9. Always use the original container for \_\_\_\_\_
13. A lowest level signal word found on a label
14. If someone swallows poison, call the poison control \_\_\_\_\_
16. Keep out of children's \_\_\_\_\_
17. Child's symbol meaning poison, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_
18. A place where herbicides are used
19. Important for seeing

### Down

1. To keep a bad thing from happening
2. Getting rid of a hazardous substance
3. Person who you see when you get sick
5. The word for the highest level of possible harm on a label
6. Another word for 13 across
8. Something that can make you sick if you use it improperly
10. One should always put this first
11. Something on a cupboard or door that keeps people out
12. Like hurt

## ***Children's Activity ...***

# **Matching Game**

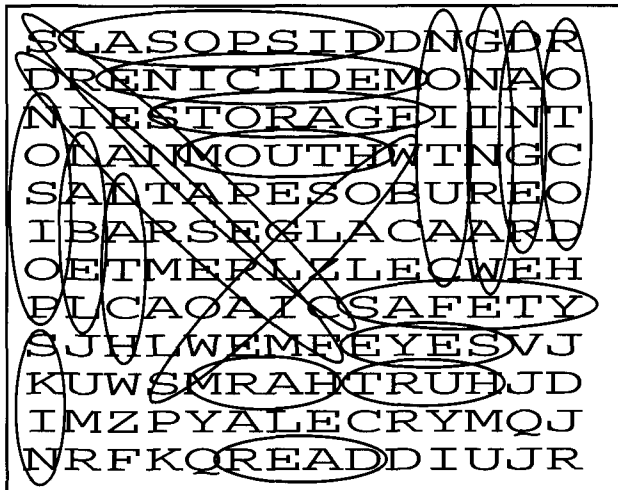
Match the type of pesticide with the pest it is intended to eliminate by drawing a line from poison to pest.

Algicides	worm-like organisms that feed on plant roots
Antimicrobials	snails and slugs
Disinfectants	mildews and molds
Fungicides	eggs of insects and mites
Herbicides	bacteria and viruses
Insecticides	algae
Miticides	weeds and other unwanted plants
Molluscicides	insects
Nematicides	rats and mice and other rodents
Ovicides	microorganisms on inanimate objects
Rodenticides	mites that feed on plants and animals

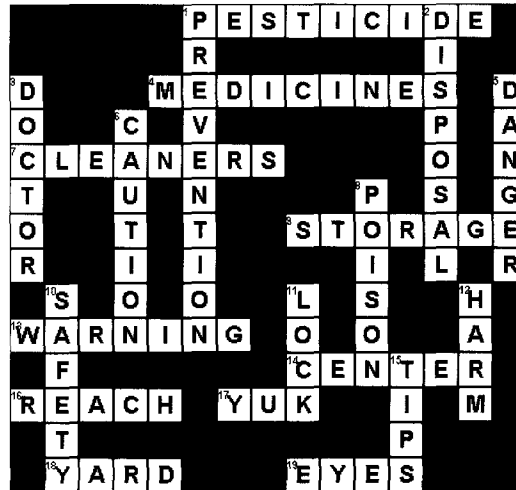
## Children's Activity ...

# Answer Keys

### Word Search



### Crossword Puzzle



### Make Words

ACCIDENT	RENTAL	LONG
POISON	ACID	NEVER
SON	INNINGS	ALONE
IS	POLE	DANGER
ON	PRONE	GEAR
ONE	LATE	GONE
PAIN	PLATE	STONE
OLD	RENT	VOTE
COLD	PESTICIDE	PINT
GOLD	PEST	RANGE
PREVENT	PAINT	PET
VENT	RAIN	CAT
EVENT	ACTION	DOG
DENT	SLATE	NEAR
DENTAL	RAN	GOING

### Secret Message

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To prevent accidental poisonings, read the label first!

### Matching Game

Algicides	algae
Antimicrobials	bacteria and viruses
Disinfectants	microorganisms on inanimate objects
Fungicides	mildews and molds
Herbicides	weeds and other unwanted plants
Insecticides	insects
Miticides	mites that feed on plants and animals
Molluscicides	snails and slugs
Nematicides	worm-like organisms that feed on plant roots
Ovicides	eggs of insects and mites
Rodenticides	rats and mice and other rodents

# Getting the Word Out

The third step in changing behavior is making sure people know about your activities. You need to get the word out by engaging the media. You need to articulate what your intent is: desire to influence behavior through education and an awareness of the dangers of hazardous household chemicals and the need to read the label on these products.

For the general media, there are two types of articles: feature stories which you can propose at any time because they are not tied into a timely event (see sample Preventing Accidental Poisonings and A Child's Vulnerability to Poison); and news stories which give information that people need to know in a timely manner because they are tied to special events, breaking news, or a new campaign activity (see samples for National Poison Prevention Week and National Safety Month). When submitting an article for consideration to the general media, be prepared to also give them the names of local experts (someone from the local poison control center, a doctor, a veterinarian, etc.), from whom they can get a quote. Also give them sources for additional data (such as can be found in the Additional Resources section of this kit).

Real life stories are more interesting to most general media outlets than reports. You have a better chance of getting more in-depth coverage if you can tie in a human interest element — someone who has been personally effected by an accidental poisoning.

Articles can also be submitted for specialized audiences. These can be placed in the newsletters of garden clubs, schools, kennel clubs, and community service organizations (see samples).

You also need to determine your target audience. Different articles are effective in different sections of newspapers. Articles on accidental poisonings written for parents with young children are more likely to be effective if placed in a health section. Articles written for gardeners on the proper use of pesticides are more likely to be effective if placed in a home and garden section.

Many media outlets and various clubs and service organizations also have on-line versions of their publications. If you are able to place an article with them, be sure to include your Web site as a source of additional information. You can use the preformatted Web pages included on the CD-ROM to add poison prevention information to your Web site.

## ***Sample News Feature Article ...***

# **Preventing Accidental Poisonings**

Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms. According to [Local Poison Control Center], [Your Location] had [Local Statistic] poisonings during [Year] alone. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. As consumers, we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products — materials used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, exterminating insects, and killing weeds. These items are valuable, but misuse — especially when used in inappropriate applications or quantities — can cause illness, injury, and even death.

Many household products are pesticides. By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. Some common household products that are pesticides include kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, cockroach sprays and baits, insect repellents for personal use, rat and other rodent poisons, flea and tick sprays and powders, flea and tick pet collars, products that kill mold and mildew, weed killers, and some swimming pool chemicals.

Most poisonings can be prevented by following some basic safety precautions. The first step is to read the label of a potentially poisonous product before you buy it. When you read the label first, you will understand the intended use, buy the proper amount, know how to store unused portions, and know how to dispose of the empty container.

Preventing poisonings is the best path for your family's safety. In addition to the danger of the poison, none of the medical procedures or drugs used to treat poisonings is risk-free. Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.

The most common accidental oral exposures occur when pesticides have been removed from their original containers and placed into a different or unlabeled bottle, jar, or food container. People, especially children and the elderly, sometimes do not realize until too late that the unmarked container holds a potentially toxic pesticide. Keep products in their original container with the label intact. Not only will this help prevent accidental ingestion, but you will also have the first aid information and the active ingredients if you need to call your doctor or poison control center when an accidental poisoning occurs.

There are potentially poisonous products in almost every room in the house. Store these products out of the reach of children, even if you don't have small children. Many poisonings happen when children are visiting homes where no children live. Don't store food and potentially poisonous products on the same shelf, and keep cupboards with hazardous products locked or closed with a safety latch. Remember even personal care items such as cosmetics, mouthwash, hair sprays, and perfumes can be poisonous if ingested by a child. When you have visitors, place their jackets and handbags out of the reach of curious children. Clean up spills and leaks from cleaners and automotive products immediately, especially if you have pets, because these products can have a sweet taste that is attractive to animals. Immediately replace the cap when using these products, so a distraction won't lead to a tragedy.

Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number, (800) 222-1222, and your doctor's phone number beside every phone in your home.

For more information, contact [Name of Your Organization], or visit [Web site].

## ***Sample News Feature Article ...***

# **A Child's Vulnerability to Poison**

Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms. According to [Local Poison Control Center], [Your Location] had [Local Statistic] poisonings during [Year] alone. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. Although exposure to hazardous substances is scary and dangerous at any age, children have a special vulnerability that heightens the danger. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, in 2001 alone, an estimated 66,000 children under the age of six were involved in common household chemical-related poisonings or exposures in the United States.

A child is at greater risk for a number of reasons. Children's immune systems are less developed and therefore less protective. Their cells are more easily damaged because they are not fully developed, and during the rapid growth of childhood, cells divide very quickly, making it more likely that a cellular mutation will be reproduced, and possibly cause cancer. Also, with a long life ahead, any problems will have a greater length of time in which to progress. Children absorb greater concentrations of pesticides and "toxic" chemicals per pound of body weight through inhalation, ingestion, and contact with the skin.

Because children are lower to the ground, both standing and through a tendency to play on the floor, children's breathing areas are likely to have higher pesticide concentrations. Children play on treated floors and grounds, and their unwashed hands or other objects, which may contain pesticide residues, can find their way into the child's mouth. The most common accidental oral exposures occur when pesticides have been removed from their original containers and placed into an unlabeled bottle, jar or food container. The child does not realize until too late that the unmarked container holds a potentially toxic pesticide.

In addition to the danger of the poison, none of the medical treatments for poisonings is risk-free. Some of the antidotes for poisoning are risky in their own right, and even simple procedures such as pumping a stomach carry a certain level of risk.

Some of the substances involved in exposures to children under the age of six include adhesives and glues, art and crafts supplies, office supplies, batteries, cleaning substances, cosmetics and personal care items, deodorizers, fertilizers, paints and stripping agents, plants, pesticides, medicines and vitamins, polishes and waxes, and tobacco products.

Because children do not read, understand or pay attention to warning signs on hazardous household chemicals, it is important the adult read and understand the label before purchasing or using any household chemical. When you buy a product that is potentially poisonous, read the label first so you will understand the intended use, buy the proper amount, know how to store unused portions, and how to dispose of empty containers. Always keep the product in the original container so it is not mistaken for another product, and so you have the label's first aid information in the event of an accidental poisoning. Store products out the reach of children and get rid on unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.

Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number, (800) 222-1222, and your doctor's phone number beside every phone in your home.

For more information, contact [Name of Your Organization], or visit [Web site].

## ***Sample Newsletter Article ...***

# **Poison Prevention Tips for Pet Owners**

According to the Animal Poison Control Center, thousands of cats and dogs needlessly suffer and many die each year by accidental ingestion of household poisons, including popular houseplants and common foods. To ensure the health and safety of your pet, as well as children who visit your home, follow the simple tips below.

- Be careful in your selection of plants for your home and yard. The ingestion of certain plants by an animal can be fatal.
- Keep your pets from areas where you are cleaning. Common household cleaners have a variety of properties; some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach.
- Store all cleaners, pesticides, and medications in a secured area.
- Most pest baits contain ingredients that can attract your pets. When using rat, mouse, snail or slug baits, or ant or roach traps, place the products in areas that your pet can't reach.
- Never give your pet medication unless told to by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals.
- Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pet's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.
- Food items that potentially could be dangerous to pets include onions, onion powder, chocolate, alcoholic beverages, yeast dough, coffee, tea, salt, macadamia nuts, tomato leaves and stems (green parts), rhubarb leaves, avocados, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, moldy or spoiled foods.
- Many common household items (i.e., mothballs, potpourri oils, pennies, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, and batteries) can be dangerous to animals.
- Automotive products such as gasoline, oil, and antifreeze should be stored in areas that pets can't reach. Some of them have a sweet taste that is attractive to animals. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a 20-pound dog.
- Before buying a flea product, consult your veterinarian.
- Read all of the information on the label before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow the directions.
- Do not mix the use of products between animals. If a product is labeled for use for a cat, don't use it on a dog and if labeled for a dog, do not use it on a cat.
- Make sure your pet can not enter areas in which insecticidal foggers or house sprays have been applied for the period of time indicated on the label.
- If you are uncertain about the proper usage of any product, contact the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.
- If you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a hazardous substance, seek medical attention immediately.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has an Animal Poison Control Center, (888) 426-4435, which is staffed by veterinarians and veterinary toxicologists. The Center operates 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. The Center has no state or federal funding, so there is \$45.00 fee for the call.



## ***Sample Newsletter Article ...***

# **Pesticide Poison Prevention in the Garden**

Proper lawn maintenance such as fertilizing, watering, aeration, and thatch removal will help keep your lawn healthy and reduce the need for chemicals. Remember there are many beneficial insects that do not cause harm, and which actually eat harmful insects. Be sure to investigate alternative solutions before resorting to chemical means.

If a chemical control is necessary, read the label first. When you read the label, you will understand the intended use, buy the proper amount, know how to store unused portions, and know how to dispose of the empty container.

Before using a pesticide, remove pet bowls, children's toys, and other objects from the area to be sprayed. Put on protective gear. Wearing protective clothing and equipment when handling or applying pesticides reduces the risk of pesticide poisoning because the chance of exposure is reduced. At a minimum, when using pesticides, you should wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, long sleeves, and long pants. Depending on the type of pesticide and your individual sensitivity, you might also want to wear goggles or a respirator.

Mix the pesticides in a well-ventilated area, and only use the recommended amount. Using twice the amount of pesticide will not make the pest twice as dead, but can cause harm to other living organisms. Immediately recap any unused portion, keeping it in its original container. Storage in a safe place out of the reach of children in a cupboard with a lock or a safety latch.

Spray when there is little wind to avoid herbicide drift, since many flowering plants, trees, and shrubs are susceptible to herbicides. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while applying pesticides. Keep children, pets, and other adults out of the area while you are spraying.

When you are finished applying the pesticide, clean all equipment, gloves, and goggles. Wash the protective clothing separately from other laundry and shower and shampoo as soon as possible. Most people are more exposed to pesticides at home than anywhere else. They track lawn-applied products into the house even a week or more after they apply them. The pesticide builds up in carpets, furniture, etc. Children who play on the floor may be at greatest risk. Vacuuming removes about one-third of contaminated dust. A doormat helps, but it's best to remove your shoes.

Keep children off treated areas for two days or until it has rained or you have watered the area. If you are spraying food crops make sure you check the days to harvest. For example the label says do not apply to cabbage within 30 days of harvest. This means that the cabbage cannot be harvested until 30 days have passed since the time of spraying. If you harvest prior to this you run the risk of pesticide residues remaining in the food.

For more information, contact [Name of Your Organization], or visit [Your Web Site].

## ***Sample News Release ...***

# **[Your Organization] Announces Poison Prevention Campaign**

[Your Organization Letterhead]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [date]

CONTACT: [name and phone number]

[YOUR COMMUNITY]

**ANNOUNCES POISON PREVENTION CAMPAIGN**

[YOUR CITY, STATE, DATE]: Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms, said [Your Spokesperson] today, launching a campaign to raise awareness of accidental poisonings and how to prevent them. An according [Local Poison Control Center] in [Location] there were [Statistics] poisonings in [Year] alone.

"The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home," [Name, Title] said in announcing [Name of Campaign]. "As consumers, we buy more than a quarter of a million different household products — materials used in and around the home for medication, cleaning, cosmetic purposes, exterminating insects, and killing weeds. These items are valuable, but misuse can cause illness, injury, and even death."

Many household products are pesticides. By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. Some common household products that are pesticides include kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, cockroach sprays and baits, insect repellents for personal use, rat and other rodent poisons, flea and tick sprays and powders, flea and tick pet collars, products that kill mold and mildew, weed killers, and some swimming pool chemicals.

[Name of Your Organization] will work with [describe target audience(s)] to raise awareness of accidental poisonings and will provide materials and information how to prevent this serious public health issue, [Spokesperson] said.

Most poisonings can be prevented by following some basic safety precautions, said [Spokesperson]. One of the most important is to read the label of a potentially poisonous product before you buy it. When you read the label first, you will understand the intended use, buy the proper amount, know how to store unused portions, and know how to dispose of the empty container. Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number, (800) 222-1222, and your doctor's phone number beside every phone in your home.

[Your Organization] will launch the [Program Name] in [City] with [describe kick-off event, including time, date and place information as appropriate, and other plans for the coming year].

For more information on [Organization's Program Name], contact [Spokesperson's Name] at [Organization's Name, Address, and Phone Number] or visit [Web site].

## ***Sample Press Release ...***

# **[Your Organization] Supports National Poison Prevention Week**

[Your Organization Letterhead]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [date]

CONTACT: [name and phone number]

[YOUR COMMUNITY]

SUPPORTS NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

[City, State] - National Poison Prevention Week was established by the U.S. Congress on September 16, 1961, in an effort to reduce the number of poisonings. In support of National Poison Prevention week, March 16-22, 2003, the [Your Organization] is launching an informational campaign to raise awareness of the importance of reading labels on household cleaners, pesticides, and insecticides. The label helps you buy the right amount of the right chemical; tells you how to use, store and dispose of it properly; gives first aid information; and provides other important information.

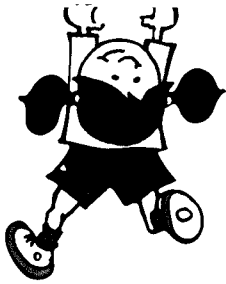
In 2000 there were 2,168,248 human toxic exposures reported to 63 poison control centers in the United States. Nearly 53% of these exposures involved children younger than six years old.

[Spokesperson] advises, "Taking just a few minutes to read the label on household cleaners and pesticides can help protect you and your loved ones from accidental poisonings." Keep the nation-wide poison control center's number, (800) 222-1222, and your doctor's phone number beside every phone in your home.

Many household products are pesticides. By their very nature, most pesticides create some risk of harm to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. Some common household products that are pesticides include kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, cockroach sprays and baits, insect repellents for personal use, rat and other rodent poisons, flea and tick sprays and powders, flea and tick pet collars, products that kill mold and mildew, weed killers, and some swimming pool chemicals.

[Name of Your Organization] will work with [describe target audience(s)] to raise awareness of accidental poisonings and will provide materials and information how to prevent this serious public health issue, [Spokesperson] said. To receive more information on how to become involved in this important public health issue during Poison Prevention Week, contact [Contact Person] at [Contact Information] or visit [Web site].

# to Protect Children from Environmental Risks



## Help children breathe easier

- Don't smoke and don't let others smoke in your home or car.
- Keep your home as clean as possible. Dust, mold, certain household pests, secondhand smoke, and pet dander can trigger asthma attacks and allergies.
- Limit outdoor activity on ozone alert days when air pollution is especially harmful.
- Walk, use bicycles, join or form carpools, and take public transportation.
- Limit motor vehicle idling.
- Avoid open burning.

## Protect children from lead poisoning

- Get kids tested for lead by their doctor or health care provider.
- Test your home for lead paint hazards if it was built before 1978.
- Wash children's hands before they eat; wash bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Wash floors and window sills to protect kids from dust and peeling paint contaminated with lead—especially in older homes.
- Run the cold water for at least 30 seconds to flush lead from pipes.

## Keep pesticides and other toxic chemicals away from children

- Store food and trash in closed containers to keep pests from coming into your home.
- Use baits and traps when you can; place baits and traps where kids can't get them.
- Read product labels and follow directions.
- Store pesticides and toxic chemicals where kids can't reach them—never put them in other containers that kids can mistake for food or drink.
- Keep children, toys, and pets away when pesticides are applied; don't let them play in fields, orchards, and gardens after pesticides have been used for at least the time recommended on the pesticide label.
- Wash fruits and vegetables under running water before eating—peel them before eating, when possible.

## Protect children from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning

- Have fuel-burning appliances, furnace flues, and chimneys checked once a year.
- Never use gas ovens or burners for heat; never use barbecues or grills indoors or in the garage.
- Never sleep in rooms with unvented gas or kerosene space heaters.
- Don't run cars or lawnmowers in the garage.
- Install in sleeping areas a CO alarm that meets UL, IAS, or Canadian standards.

## Protect children from contaminated fish and polluted water

- Be alert for local fish advisories or beach closings. Contact your local health department.
- Take used motor oil to a recycling center; properly dispose of toxic household chemicals.
- Learn what's in your drinking water—call your local public water supplier for annual drinking water quality reports; for private drinking water wells, have them tested annually by a certified laboratory. Call 1-800-426-4791 or contact [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) for help.

## Safeguard children from high levels of radon

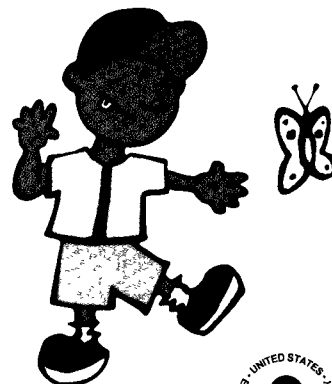
- Test your home for radon with a home test kit.
- Fix your home if your radon level is 4 pCi/L or higher. For help, call your state radon office or 1-800-SOS-RADON.

## Protect children from too much sun

- Wear hats, sunglasses, and protective clothing.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 15+ on kids over six months; keep infants out of direct sunlight.
- Limit time in the mid-day sun—the sun is most intense between 10 and 4.

## Keep children and mercury apart

- Eat a balanced diet but avoid fish with high levels of mercury.
- Replace mercury thermometers with digital thermometers.
- Don't let kids handle or play with mercury.
- Never heat or burn mercury.
- Contact your state or local health or environment department if mercury is spilled—never vacuum a spill.



## Ayude a los niños a respirar aire no contaminado

- No fume ni permita a otros fumar en su casa o automóvil.
- Mantenga su casa lo más limpia posible. El polvo, el moho, los insectos, el humo del tabaco y la caspa de los animales domésticos pueden causar ataques de asma y alergias.
- Evite las actividades al aire libre cuando hay anuncios de alerta a causa de altos niveles de ozono en el aire.
- Para no contribuir a la contaminación del aire, camine, use la bicicleta, participe en grupos para compartir transporte en automóvil privado ("carpools") y use transporte público.
- Evite dejar prendido el motor de su vehículo innecesariamente.
- No haga fogatas ni quemas al aire libre.

## Proteja a los niños del envenenamiento con plomo

- Haga examinar a sus niños para saber si tienen plomo en la sangre. Hable con su médico sobre la prueba necesaria.
- Si su vivienda fue construida antes de 1978, realice una prueba para saber si existe peligro por pintura con plomo (llame a su departamento de salud local o estatal para obtener más información.)
- Lave las manos de los niños antes de comer y lave con frecuencia los biberones, y juguetes de los niños.
- Lave los pisos y marcos de ventanas para proteger a los niños del polvo y de la pintura descascarada, que puede estar contaminada con plomo, especialmente en viviendas viejas.
- Antes de usar agua, deje abierto el chorro de la llave por 30 segundos antes para dejar salir el agua contaminada con plomo de las tuberías.

## Mantenga los pesticidas y otros químicos tóxicos fuera del alcance de los niños

- Guarde la comida y la basura en recipientes cerrados para evitar que haya plagas (insectos o ratas) dentro de su casa.
- Use trampas con cebo en vez de insecticidas en aerosol ("spray") siempre que sea posible—y siempre manténganlas fuera del alcance de los niños.
- Lea las etiquetas de los productos y siga las instrucciones.
- Guarde los pesticidas y otros químicos tóxicos en un lugar seguro donde los niños no los pueden alcanzar y nunca ponga pesticidas o químicos tóxicos en envases de refrescos o recipientes de comida, y así evitará que los niños los ingieran por error.
- Mantenga a los niños, los juguetes y las mascotas alejados cuando esté usando pesticidas y no deje que los niños jueguen en campos, huertos o jardines donde hayan sido aplicados pesticidas, por lo menos por el período de tiempo recomendado en la etiqueta del pesticida.
- Lave las frutas y vegetales bajo un chorro de agua antes de comerlos. Pélelos antes de comerlos siempre que sea posible.

## Proteja a los niños del envenenamiento con monóxido de carbono (CO)

- En su hogar haga revisar una vez al año todas las tuberías de salida de humos de calderas de calefacción y chimeneas, así como también otros aparatos que usen combustible.
- Nunca use el horno o las hornillas de su cocina como calefacción. Tampoco prenda parrillas para asar o cocinar alimentos dentro de su casa o en su garaje.
- Nunca duerma, ni usted ni sus niños, en cuartos en donde haya estufas o calentadores de gas o de queroseno sin ventilación.
- No deje funcionando el motor de un automóvil o el de una cortadora de pasto dentro de un garaje cerrado.
- Instale en todos los cuartos de su casa, usados para dormir, detectores de monóxido de carbono (CO) que cumplan con los estándares de Underwriters Laboratories (UL), de International Approval Service (IAS) o del gobierno de Canadá y que cuenten con el sello de certificación respectivo.

## Proteja a los niños de pescado y de agua contaminados

- Llame al departamento de salud local o estatal para mantenerse informado sobre mensajes de precaución sobre pescado contaminado, obtener recomendaciones para limitar la cantidad de pescado que puede consumirse y sobre clausuras de playas.
- Lleve el aceite de motores usado a centros de reciclaje y deshágase de manera apropiada de químicos tóxicos de uso doméstico. (Llame a su departamento de salud o su departamento ambiental local o estatal para obtener más información.)
- Manténgase informado sobre la calidad del agua potable en el lugar donde usted vive.—Llame a la empresa local de suministro de agua potable y solicite una copia del informe anual de calidad de agua potable o, si el agua de su casa viene de un pozo privado de agua potable, haga que la calidad del agua sea analizada todos los años por un laboratorio certificado. Para obtener ayuda, llame al número 1-800-426-4791 (línea en inglés) u obtenga información en Internet en la dirección [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Proteja a los niños de altos niveles de gas radón

- Haga en su casa la prueba de radón con un "kit" especial para hacer esa prueba en casas.
- Repare su casa si, según el resultado de la prueba realizada, el nivel de radón es de 4 pCi/L o superior. Si necesita ayuda, llame a la oficina estatal de radón o al número 1-800-SOS-RADON (línea en inglés).

## Proteja a los niños de la exposición excesiva al sol

- Asegúrese de que los niños usen sombreros o gorros de ala ancha, anteojos para el sol y ropa adecuada para su protección.
- Use cremas bloqueadoras solares con un Factor de Protección Solar (SPF) de 15 o superior en bebés de más de seis meses de edad y evite exponer directamente a los bebés a los rayos del sol.
- Evite exponer a los niños al sol del mediodía. El sol es más fuerte entre las 10 de la mañana y las 4 de la tarde.

## Mantenga a los niños lejos del mercurio

- Coma una dieta balanceada pero evite pescado contaminado con altos niveles de mercurio.
- Reemplace los termómetros de mercurio con termómetros digitales.
- No deje que los niños jueguen con mercurio.
- Nunca caliente o queme mercurio.
- Contacte al departamento de salud o medio ambiente de su estado o localidad si hay un derrame de mercurio—nunca use una aspiradora para limpiar un derrame de mercurio.



Para mayor información, llame gratis al teléfono **1-877-590-KIDS** ó visite la página en Internet **[www.epa.gov/children](http://www.epa.gov/children)** (información disponible solamente en inglés).

Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los EUA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

EPA 100-F-02-004