



Common Hazardous Household Products

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Many of the items we use every day can become a problem if they are used, stored or disposed of improperly. Products are considered hazardous – that is, harmful to human health and the environment – if they have one or more of the following properties – **FLAMMABLE, TOXIC, CORROSIVE AND EXPLOSIVE/REACTIVE**.

DIRECTIONS: Place an **F** if the object is flammable, **T** if it is toxic, **C** if it is corrosive or **E** if it is explosive/reactive. Some items may have more than one letter. One item has no letters.

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|---|--|
| _____ 1. Cell phone battery (rechargeable) | _____ 11. Unused fertilizer |
| _____ 2. Car battery | _____ 12. Broken thermometer (silver-colored only) |
| _____ 3. Shaving cream can | _____ 13. Rug spot remover |
| _____ 4. Gasoline and/or oil | _____ 14. Lacquer or paint |
| _____ 5. Empty spray paint can | _____ 15. Flea collar for pets |
| _____ 6. Drain cleaner | _____ 16. Newspaper |
| _____ 7. Empty insecticide spray can | _____ 17. Paper |
| _____ 8. Unused matches | _____ 18. Used spray deodorant can |
| _____ 9. Used match | _____ 19. Hydrochloric acid from school lab |
| _____ 10. Unused prescription drugs and medications | _____ 20. Flashlight battery (non-rechargeable) |



What's in your house?

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Hazardous household products can be found in many places in the home. Where did you find the following products? Write the location in the line beside the name of the product. Remember to look for the signal words – **DANGER, POISON, WARNING** and **CAUTION** – on the product labels.

CAUTION

- MEDICINE _____
- BLEACH _____
- FURNITURE POLISH _____
- BUBBLE BATH _____
- SCOURING POWDER _____
- COSMETICS _____

POISON

- SLUG BAIT _____
- TOILET BOWL CLEANERS _____
- WEED KILLERS _____
- ROACH SPRAY _____
- ANTIFREEZE _____
- ROOM DEODORIZERS _____

DANGER

- OVEN CLEANERS _____
- POOL ACID _____
- PAINT THINNER, TURPENTINE _____
- CHARCOAL _____
- LIGHTER FLUID _____
- GUNS AND AMMUNITION _____

WARNING

- LAUNDRY DETERGENT _____
- FLOOR POLISH _____
- PET FLEA COLLARS _____
- DISINFECTANT CLEANERS _____

- RAT POISON _____
- NO-PEST STRIPS _____
- GLASS & WINDOW CLEANERS _____
- MOTHBALLS _____
- DRAIN OPENERS _____

SIGNAL WORDS ON MORE ITEMS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Do you or someone else in your home use products like detergents, nail polish remover, gasoline, hair spray, paint and bleach? These products and many more that are commonly found in our homes can be **FLAMMABLE**, **TOXIC**, **CORROSIVE** or **EXPLOSIVE/REACTIVE**. Here are a few guidelines that will help you use hazardous household products safely.

- 1. Use a less hazardous product.** For example, use a water-based paint instead of an oil-based paint.
- 2. Read labels carefully.** Know what you are buying and how to use the product.
- 3. Buy only what you need and use what you buy.** This will eliminate or at least reduce the amount you need to dispose of properly.
- 4. Do not mix products.** Some products may react and become toxic. For example, bleach and ammonia are reactive.
- 5. Keep labels on the containers.** Keep this important information available on how to use and identify the product.
- 6. Keep products in their original containers.** Some chemicals react with plastic material. Never store chemicals in old food containers.
- 7. Do not reuse chemical product containers** Many chemicals leave residue in their containers.
- 8. Properly dispose of all hazardous household products.** Some products can contaminate water resources (including drinking water), soil and air.
- 9. Take additional precautions.** Avoid wearing soft contact lenses when using hazardous household products – they can absorb vapors and trap them against the eyes. Wear old clothes – wash separately and dry on the line if possible. Be sure to wash all exposed body parts when you finish using a product. Be sure to clean up before you eat – even if you've used gloves.
- 10. Put Mr. Yuk or similar stickers on hazardous household products** and teach children to leave them alone. (Mr. Yuk is used by permission from the Pittsburgh Poison Center.) Please visit www.upmc.com/services/poison-center/about-yuk.

