

Information in this booklet is designed to teach students and adults how to identify hazardous household products, why household hazardous waste is an environmental and health problem, and what they can do to insure a safer home and environment.

Answers to the Household Hazards Quiz, hold up to mirror to read

1. Many household cleaners, most automotive products, and many hobby products.
2. Warning, caution, danger, poison, toxic, irritant, corrosive, flammable, compressed, explosive.
3. Inhalation or breathing, eating or drinking, skin contact and skin absorption.
4. You could breathe the particles when they are dispersed; the can could explode when used near a source of heat or a spark.
5. Recycle it by taking it to your nearest collection point for used oil, such as an automotive center.
6. Motor oil, antifreeze, and latex paint are just a few.
7. When its use, storage, or disposal poses a threat to human health or the environment.



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

# Kid Zone

How to  
stay safe  
at home

Take the  
household  
hazards quiz

How do I know  
something is  
hazardous?

What are  
some common  
hazardous products?

# Kid Zone



## Around the House

Some jobs around your home may require the use of products containing hazardous chemicals that may be dangerous or poisonous. These items may include certain paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, pool chemicals, and fertilizers. Household chemicals, such as bleach, ammonia, all-purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, scouring powders, oven cleaners, furniture polish, and spot removers, are corrosive and toxic. Even items such as nail polish, artist's paints, bug spray, and batteries can be hazardous.



The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is a federal government agency responsible for writing and enforcing the rules that make sure that manufacturers place these chemicals in the proper containers so they are not harmful to you when you use them. The used or leftover contents of such consumer products are known as "household hazardous waste."

Although household hazardous wastes are not regulated by federal or state laws, PHMSA wants to make sure that you know that these items need to be disposed of correctly so they will not cause pollution and harm fish, wildlife, and people.

## How Can I Help?

Buy the smallest amount that you need for the job.

Use the product with the lowest level of warning on the label. For example, use a product marked "caution" instead of "poison."

Use up what you have, if you can't use it all, give it to someone who will and always dispose of household hazardous waste safely.

## If you have to use hazardous products, use the following precautions:

Read and follow directions carefully. Use them in well-ventilated areas.

Avoid using aerosols whenever possible. Fine aerosol mist may be breathed in, damaging lung tissue or entering the blood stream. Keep products out of reach of children and pets.

## How do I know something is hazardous?

Look for the following words:

**Caution** - *Mild to moderately hazardous*

**Warning** - *Moderately hazardous*

**Danger** - *Extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic*

**Poison** - *Highly toxic*

## Household Hazards Quiz

1. Name two hazardous products often found in our homes?
2. Name three words you might find on a product label that tell you that product is hazardous.
3. Name three ways toxic substances can enter into your body.
4. Why are aerosol sprays (like spray paint) potentially harmful to your health?
5. You helped change the motor oil in the family car. What should you do with the used motor oil?
6. Name one household hazardous product that can be recycled.
7. When is a product hazardous?

Answers can be found on the back of this booklet

## Common Household Hazardous Products

