Tox Town Introduction
June 1, 2006

Tox Town is a resource of the National Library of Medicine which provides information on everyday locations where one might find toxic chemicals. Tox Town uses color, graphics, sound and animation to add interest to learning about connections between chemicals, the environment, and the public's health.

Four main neighborhoods make up Tox Town: the City, Town, US-Mexico Border and Farm. These neighborhoods give an overview of environmental health concerns in those settings. Some concerns, like Drinking Water, are repeated in every scene. Others are unique to a setting, like Brownfields in the City.

Each neighborhood gives selected Internet resources about that location's environment and possible effects on human health. Toxic chemicals that might be found in a location are also listed. Some buildings display an interior view. Toxic chemicals that may be found in a location are also listed.

Tox Town gives non-technical descriptions of chemicals in terms appropriate for secondary-school students and the general public.

One of the Tox Town neighborhoods is a farm which shows rural environmental health concerns. You'll see, for example, agricultural runoff that can carry animal waste, pesticides, and farm chemicals into nearby streams. The scene also shows toxic chemicals that are found on farms and where they might be used and stored.

Pointing to a chemical name, benzene for example, gives a one-line description and shows where you might find the chemical in a rural area. Clicking on the animals, you'll hear animal sounds and connect to links about human diseases associated with farm animals or pets. As you scroll around the picture, more locations and environmental concerns are highlighted. For example: landfills, drinking water, urban sprawl, and tree farms.

Tox Town's information on chemical and environmental concerns is from the TOXNET and MedlinePlus resources of the National Library of Medicine, as well as other authoritative sources. Tox Town also offers resources in Spanish.