

## Learn more

about protecting the children in your home by contacting the following organizations:

### American Academy of Pediatrics

847.434.4000

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Offers a variety of information for parents and healthcare providers, including information on potential poisons and poison-proofing your home.

### American Association of Poison Control Centers

800.222.1222

[www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

Offers advice and information regarding substances and how to handle a potential poison emergency.

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

Government agency offers links to programs, activities and information sources related to children's environmental health.

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

800.438.2474

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Offers information on potentially hazardous substances in your home, as well as alternatives to household cleaners.



*Note: PRC does not endorse or recommend any of the groups or organizations listed in this brochure. Individuals seeking information or services from them should fully research their qualifications and capabilities as related to their needs.*

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Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force  
([swpahhw.org](http://swpahhw.org)) for contributing to the content of this brochure.

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a pediatrician with Mercy Children's Medical Center, part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, for contributing to the content of this brochure.



*"Working to protect the environment since 1939"*

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**Pennsylvania Resources Council's** mission is  
*to promote conservation of our natural resources and  
protection of scenic beauty through public education and  
outreach in a collaborative effort with government  
agencies, business, charitable foundations and other  
nonprofit organizations.*

# Sure Bets to Safeguard Kids in Your Home

**Protect your loved ones from  
dangerous chemicals found in or  
around your home.**



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**Take a quick look around your house and you may discover as much as 100 pounds of "household hazardous waste" (HHW) stored in your basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom and garden shed.**

Surprised? Don't be — you're not alone.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate this amount of cleaners, pesticides, paints, automotive fluids and other products containing hazardous components. While such products are safe to use if you take the proper precautions, problems generally arise when you use — or dispose of — them improperly. You need to take extra precautions to protect children living under your roof.

**Protect your child's health** by learning more about dangers in the home. Read this brochure, talk to your pediatrician and contact the organizations listed as resources.

Then begin to make your home a safer place for your family.

- Buy less toxic products.
- If a situation requires using a more toxic product, buy only as much as you need to do the job.
- Make safe cleaning solutions at home from products such as baking soda and vinegar.
- Collect products throughout your house and drop them off at a HHW collection event.

*For more information about collection events and recipes for safe cleaning solutions, contact:*

**Pennsylvania Resources Council**

412.488.7490

[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)

or

**Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force**

412.488.7452

[www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org)

## Did you know

... Poison Control Centers receive one call every 13 seconds concerning a suspected or actual human poisoning or exposure. More than 90% of these exposures occur in or around a home.

... Chemicals can enter a child's body through the mouth, nose, eyes, and skin.

... Some chemicals penetrate children's skin more easily than adults' skin.

... Children breathe faster than adults. Children may have more exposure to toxic fumes and might be more affected by them.

... Numerous other substances pose potential danger to children including, but not limited to, medications, vitamins and supplements, and alcohol and tobacco products.



## EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

If you have a poisoning emergency,  
call Pittsburgh Poison Center at

**1-800-222-1222.**

If the child has collapsed or is not breathing,  
**call 911.**

## Top 10 Tips for Safeguarding Children

### 10) READ THE LABEL AND INSTRUCTIONS

Note expiration dates. Look for words such as "poison" and "danger." Use each product properly.

### 9) USE ORIGINAL CONTAINERS

Never put poisonous products in containers that are used for food, such as bottles, cans or cups. Children may be confused and accidentally eat or drink the chemicals.

### 8) TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Tell them to always ask an adult before touching, tasting or smelling an unknown substance.

### 7) STORE ITEMS SAFELY

Store toothpaste, soap, shampoo and other personal care items in a different location from dangerous products, such as cleaning products.

### 6) LOCK IT UP

Store medications, chemicals, cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers and other dangerous products in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children. Use childproof caps on products.

### 5) WATCH YOUR CHILDREN

Safeguard your children by keeping them away from lawn and garden areas recently treated with pesticides or fertilizer. Remove their shoes and wash their hands when they come inside.

### 4) USE ADEQUATE VENTILATION

Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes in your house, garage and yard.

### 3) USE SAFE SUBSTITUTES

Purchase safe products — or make non-toxic alternatives at home from items such as baking soda and vinegar.

### 2) BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED

Estimate the quantity you need...and don't fall for large quantities on "sale."

### 1) DISPOSE OF EXCESS TOXIC MATERIALS

Attend a HHW drop-off event.

Visit [www.swpahhw.org](http://www.swpahhw.org) or call 412-488-7452.