

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics

847-434-4000

aap.org

Offers information about childcare, including poison-proofing your home

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

atsdr.cdc.gov

Offers links to programs, activities, and information sources related to children's environmental health

Pennsylvania Resources Council

412-488-7490

prc.org

Provides information for HHW management in Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Poison Center

800-222-1222

chp.edu/CHP/poisoncenter

Provides free poison information 24 hours a day

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

800-438-2474

epa.gov

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

In Partnership With

Allegheny County Health Department

achd.net/recycling

Armstrong County Recycling Center

co.armstrong.pa.us/recycling

Beaver County Department of Waste Management

beavercountypa.gov/Depts/WasteMgmt

Cambria County Solid Waste Authority

cambriarecycles.org

Washington County Planning Commission

co.washington.pa.us/177/recycling

PA DEP Recycling Hotline

800-346-4242

OUR MISSION: To lead and promote individual and collective actions to preserve Pennsylvania's environmental resources for each generation.



Working to protect the environment since 1939

PRC WEST 64 South 14th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

PRC EAST 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073

www.prc.org

@PRC_Litterbug   @prc.org

Safe & Healthy

Kids



A guide to protecting children
from chemicals in the home

PLEASE 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.



Look around your home and you may discover as much as 100 pounds of “household hazardous waste” (HHW) stored in your basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom, and garden shed.

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 proper precautions are taken, problems generally arise when you use, store, or dispose of products improperly.

Manage your HHW responsibly:

Shopping – Purchase the least toxic product available and estimate the quantity in advance to avoid leftover toxic materials.

Storage – Label all containers and keep all chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.

Nontoxic Alternatives – Make safe cleaning solutions at home from products such as baking soda, borax, and vinegar.

Collection Events – Gather products and drop off at a household chemical collection event.

Children under 6 are the victims of nearly half of all poison exposures.



Did you know...

- Many household chemicals that pose increased risk to children are brightly colored and sweet-smelling. These chemicals include medications, vitamins, alcohol, and tobacco products.
- Children eat, drink, and breathe more than adults in relation to their body size. Therefore, they are often more susceptible than adults to toxic fumes and household chemicals.
- Children breathe in air that is much closer to the ground. Concentrations of pollutants settle out of the air and stay near the floor, causing children to breathe more chemical vapors.
- The skin of infants and children is more permeable than adults and rapidly absorbs environmental toxins.
- Children often put objects in their mouths, making them susceptible to accidental ingestion of household chemicals.

TOP TIPS for Safeguarding Children

- 1. Dispose of Excess Toxic Materials**
Call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242 to learn about drop-off locations near you.
- 2. Read the Label**
Read instructions and note expiration dates. Look for words such as “poison” and “danger.” Use each product properly, according to the instructions.
- 3. Use Original Containers**
Never put poisonous products in containers once used for food, such as bottles, cans, or cups. Children may be confused and accidentally consume poison.
- 4. Avoid Mixing**
Do not mix substances together unless a label states it is safe to do so. Combining household chemicals can create unsafe byproducts, such as chloramine gas from mixing bleach and ammonia.
- 5. Keep Chemicals in a Safe Place**
Store all chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- 6. Label Products**
Ensure all products are clearly labeled, including homemade cleaning formulas.
- 7. Use Adequate Ventilation**
Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes when using HHW in enclosed spaces such as bathrooms and garages.
- 8. Use Nontoxic Alternatives**
Purchase nontoxic alternative products or make your own at home from materials such as baking soda and vinegar.
- 9. Purchase Only What You Need**
Estimate the quantity you need so you don't end up with large amounts of leftover toxic materials.

In case of accidental poisoning:

Pittsburgh Poison Center

412-681-6669 or 800-222-1222
24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Info about collection events:

Pennsylvania Resources Council

prc.org

Info about proper disposal:

PA DEP Recycling Hotline

800-346-4242

