

## Resources

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)**  
[depweb.state.pa.us](http://depweb.state.pa.us)

Offers information concerning managing household hazardous waste

**Pennsylvania Resources Council**  
[prc.org](http://prc.org)

Provides information for HHW management in Pennsylvania

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
800-438-2474  
[epa.gov](http://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](http://achd.net/recycling)

**Armstrong County Recycling Center**  
[co.armstrong.pa.us/recycling](http://co.armstrong.pa.us/recycling)

**Beaver County Department of Waste Management**  
[beavercountypa.gov/Depts/WasteMgmt](http://beavercountypa.gov/Depts/WasteMgmt)

**Cambria County Solid Waste Authority**  
[cambriarecycles.org](http://cambriarecycles.org)

**Washington County Planning Commission**  
[co.washington.pa.us/177/recycling](http://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

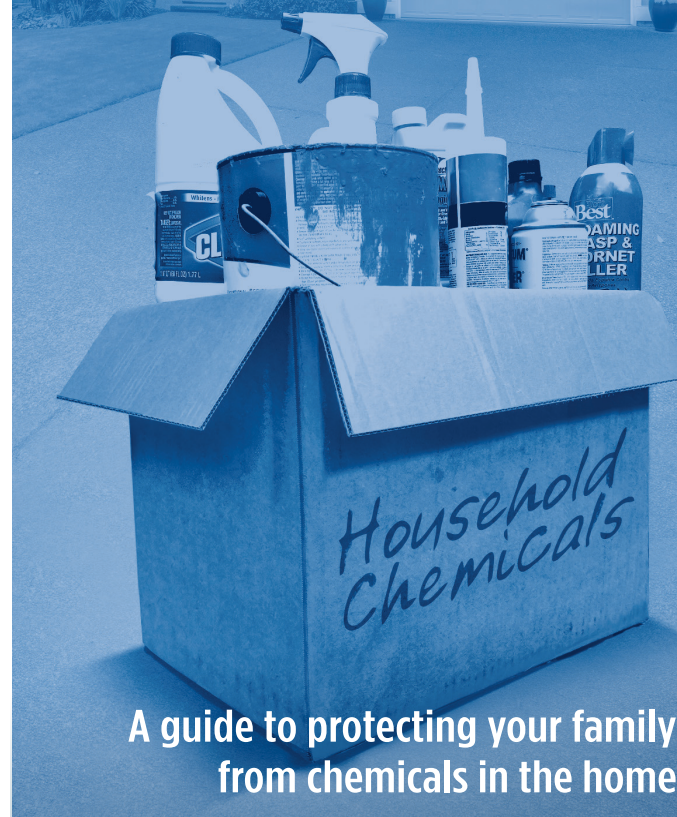
[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)

@PRC\_Litterbug   @prc.org

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.

# Safe & Healthy

## Home



A guide to protecting your family from chemicals in the home



**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.

**Of poisonings and exposures called into Poison Control Centers, more than 90% occur in or around the home.**



## Did you know...

- Disposing of hazardous waste in curbside trash can endanger trash collectors and landfill workers. Chemicals spilled or mixed during the disposal process can result in explosions, fires, and burns.
- Hazardous products poured down the drain or in yards may permanently damage local waterways, plants, and soil.
- Poison Control Centers receive approximately one call every 13 seconds concerning a suspected or actual human poisoning or exposure. More than 90% of these exposures occur in or around the home.
- Common types of household chemicals include adhesives/caulking products, aerosols, automotive fluids and maintenance products, chemistry sets, fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides, gasoline/kerosene, household cleaners, lawn/garden supplies, mercury, paint products, pharmaceuticals, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, and some personal care products.

## TOP TIPS for Safeguarding Your Home

- 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. 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.
- 3. Purchase Only What You Need**  
Estimate the quantity you need so you don't end up with large amounts of leftover toxic materials.
- 4. Keep Chemicals in a Safe Place**  
Store all chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- 5. Label Products**  
Ensure all products are clearly labeled, including homemade cleaning formulas.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Use Nontoxic Alternatives**  
Purchase nontoxic alternative products or make your own at home from materials such as baking soda and vinegar.
- 8. Use Adequate Ventilation**  
Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes when using HHW in enclosed spaces such as bathrooms and garages.
- 9. Manage Materials Responsibly When Moving**  
Do not leave any HHW behind in your old home. To find safe disposal options near you, call the PA DEP Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242.

**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

