

Resources

American Humane Society

800-227-4645

americanhumane.org

Offers information on pet care and issues including household chemical hazards

American Red Cross

202-303-4498

redcross.org

Gives tips on how to care for your pet in an emergency and also offers a pet first aid book

ASPCA

(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

212-876-7700

aspca.org

Provides information for making and keeping your pet's home poison safe and offers details about the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

American Veterinary Medical Association

847-925-8070

avma.org

Offers an assortment of brochures on animal health including household hazards

Humane Society of the United States

202-452-1100

hsus.org

Provides a variety of pet care guides including protecting your pet from common household dangers and accidental poisoning

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.

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

Pets



A guide to protecting your pets 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 the thousands of calls the ASPCA’s poison control center receives annually, 40% pertain to situations involving HHW.



Did you know...

- Chemicals can enter an animal’s body via mouth, skin, eyes, or nose. Pets can also ingest toxins while grooming (licking fur or paws after contact with toxic substances).
- The majority of poisonings in dogs and cats occurs via ingestion (e.g. eating hazardous materials or grooming after contact with such substances).
- The majority of poisonings in birds occurs via inhalation (breathing in toxic fumes).
- Fish are at risk when toxic particles from aerosols settle in the water of their tanks.
- Dogs and cats are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze, which can be fatal in very small quantities.
- In addition to household chemicals, numerous other substances pose potential dangers to pets, including:
 - Human medications;
 - Foods such as chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, sugar-free candies, macadamia nuts, and uncooked dough;
 - Lawn products such as cocoa mulch;
 - Plants such as philodendrons, mistletoe, lilies, dieffenbachia, golden pothos, and devil’s ivy.

TOP TIPS for Safeguarding Pets

- 1. 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.
- 2. Safeguard Pets from Pesticides**
Keep pets away from recently treated areas. Be sure to thoroughly wash off paws before a pet enters the house.
- 3. Store Items Out of Reach**
Seal containers and place them out of the reach of pets. Use trash cans with lids.
- 4. Use Adequate Ventilation**
Be aware of the dangers of toxic fumes (especially when using oven cleaners in the presence of birds).
- 5. Use Common Sense**
Always think before using household chemicals (e.g. remove birds from room when using cleaning supplies).
- 6. Use Nontoxic Alternatives**
Purchase nontoxic products, or make nontoxic substitutes at home.
- 7. Purchase Only What You Need**
Estimate the quantity you need so you don’t end up with large amounts of leftover toxic materials.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Communicate**
Share this information with everyone who works in your home, including gardeners, exterminators, pet sitters, and house cleaners.

In case of accidental poisoning:

Pittsburgh Poison Center

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

ASPCA

888-426-4435

Info about collection events:

Pennsylvania Resources Council

prc.org

Info about proper disposal:

PA DEP Recycling Hotline

800-346-4242

