

If you should spill a chemical,

clean it up immediately with rags, being careful to protect your eyes and skin. Allow the fumes in the rags to evaporate outdoors in a safe place, then dispose of them by wrapping them in newspaper and placing them in a sealed plastic bag. Dispose of these materials with your trash.

Buy only as much of the chemical as you think you will use. If you have product left over, try to give it to someone who will use it. Storing hazardous materials increases risk to chemical emergencies.

Keep an A-B-C rated fire

extinguisher in the home and car, and get training from your local fire department on how to use them. Should chemicals ignite, you will have an opportunity to extinguish the fire before it spreads, avoiding greater damage.

Be prepared . . .

Take a first aid class and have a first aid kit on hand.

In case of a household chemical emergency, call "911". . .

Then contact the Poison Control Center at:

1-(800)-764-7661
(1 – 800 – POISON – 1)

What To Do In A Major Chemical Emergency

(Truck, train, plant, pipeline, etc.)

A major chemical emergency is an accident that releases a hazardous amount of a chemical into the environment. Accidents can happen under ground, on railroad tracks or highways, and at manufacturing plants. These accidents sometimes result in a fire or explosion, but many times you cannot see or smell anything unusual.

First . . .

- Go indoors and listen to local radio or television for instructions. Stay inside unless you are told you can leave.
- If you are in a vehicle, close windows and air systems.

To shelter in place . . .

- Close all windows and doors.
- Turn off heating, cooling, or ventilation systems. Close fireplace damper.
- If eyes, nose, or throat become irritated, protect your breathing by covering your mouth with a damp cloth, take frequent shallow breaths, and stay calm.

If an evacuation is ordered . . .

- Stay calm.
- Gather what you and your family will need. Take such essential items as medicine, baby supplies, driver's license, checkbook.
- Don't forget about your pets.
- Keep car windows and air vents closed.
- Police officers along route will direct you.



Preventing Chemical Emergencies In The Home



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Learn about household chemical risk ...



Chemicals are a natural and important part of our environment. Even though we often don't think about it, we use chemicals every day. They can be found in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements, and garages. Chemicals help us keep our food fresh and our bodies clean. They help our plants grow and fuel our cars. And chemicals make it possible for us to live longer, healthier lives.

A home chemical emergency arises when chemicals are used improperly. Some chemicals that are safe, and even helpful in small amounts, can be harmful in larger quantities or under certain conditions. In fact, most chemical accidents occur in our homes, and they can be prevented.

Read the labels on all hazardous materials, for information about potentially dangerous products and their antidotes. Keep appropriate antidotes in your home for cleaners and germicides, deodorizers, detergents, drain and bowl cleaners, gases, home medications, laundry bleaches, liquid fuels, and paint removers and thinners.

Keep all medicines, cleaning products, and other household chemicals out of sight and out of reach of children. The most common home chemical emergencies involve small children eating medicines. Experts in the field of chemical manufacturing suggest that moving hazardous material out of sight could eliminate up to seventy-five percent of all poisonings of small children.

Flush medicines that are no longer being used or that are outdated down the toilet, and place the empty container in the trash. Outdated medicines can sometimes cause ill effects. Flushing them will eliminate the risk of people or animals picking them out of the garbage.

Store household chemicals according to the instructions on the label. Nonfood products should be stored tightly closed in their original container so you can always identify the contents of each container and how to properly use the product.

Avoid mixing common household chemical products. Some combinations of these products, such as ammonia and chlorine bleach, can create toxic gases.

Always read the directions before using new products. To avoid inhaling dangerous vapors, do not use some products in a small, confined space. Other products should not be used without gloves and eye protection to help prevent the chemical from touching the body.

Read instructions on how to dispose of chemicals properly. Improper disposal can result in harm to you or your family, accidental contamination of the local water supply, or harm to other people. It is also important to dispose of products properly to preserve the environment and protect the wildlife. Plus, some products can be recycled, which helps protect the environment. If you have questions about how to properly dispose of a chemical, call the facility or an environmental recycling agency.

Small amounts of the following products can be safely poured down the drain with plenty of water:

antifreeze, bathroom and glass cleaners, household disinfectant, laundry and dishwashing detergent, rubbing alcohol, rug and upholstery cleaner, and toilet bowl cleaner.

Small amounts of the following products should be disposed of by wrapping the container in newspaper and plastic and placing it in the trash: brake fluid, car wax or polish, drain cleaner, fertilizer, furniture and floor polish, insect repellent, nail polish, oven cleaner, pesticides, power cleaners, water-based paint, and wood preservatives.

Dispose of the following products at a recycling center or a collection site: kerosene, motor or fuel oil, car battery or battery acid, diesel fuel, transmission fluid, large amounts of paint, paint thinner or stripper, power steering fluid, turpentine, gun cleaning solvents, tires, pesticides, and pool chemicals.

Empty spray cans by pressing the button until nothing comes out, then place the can in the trash. Do not place spray cans in a burning barrel, incinerator, or trash compactor because they may explode. Some areas accept spray cans for recycling.

Never smoke while using household chemicals. Avoid using hair spray, cleaning solutions, paint products, or pesticides near the open flame of an appliance, pilot light, lit candle, fireplace, wood burning stove, etc. Although you may not be able to see them or smell them, vapor particles in the air could ignite and explode.