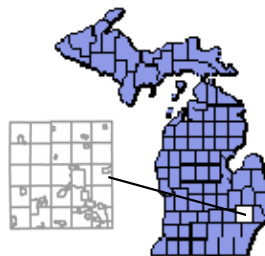


## **Examples of hazardous household chemicals**

- **Automotive fluids:** oil, antifreeze, fuel, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid, transmission fluid, waxes and gasoline.
- **Barbecue products:** propane, charcoal briquettes and lighter fluid.
- **Bathroom products:** air freshener, toilet bowl cleaners and aerosols.
- **Health and beauty products:** hairspray, hair remover, fingernail polish, fingernail polish remover, hair coloring products and some medications.
- **Home maintenance:** paint, varnish, stains, oils, mouse/rat poison, rust remover, turpentine, roofing tar, swimming pool chemicals, furniture strippers and driveway sealer.
- **Household cleaners:** bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, carpet freshener, air freshener, window cleaner, furniture polish, mold and mildew cleaner.
- **Kitchen products:** dishwasher detergent, drain cleaner and oven cleaner.
- **Laundry products:** laundry detergent, fabric softener and degreasers.
- **Lawn and garden products:** fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.
- **Miscellaneous:** photo developing chemicals, Mercury thermostats/thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs.
- **Pet products:** flea collar and powders.

### **Important phone numbers:**

Poison Control (800)222-1222  
Emergency 9-1-1



L. Brooks Patterson, County Executive

## **Emergency Response & Preparedness**

1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Dept 410  
Pontiac, MI 48341-0410  
(248) 858-5300  
Fax (248) 858-5550  
[www.oakgov.com/erp](http://www.oakgov.com/erp)  
[oakerp@oakgov.com](mailto:oakerp@oakgov.com)

1/07

# **CHEMICALS IN YOUR HOME**



A guide to keep you safe  
around household  
chemicals

## What is a home chemical emergency?

An emergency caused by the improper use of household chemicals.

### About warning labels

Labels may contain key words to let you know the severity of the product's hazard, such as...

**DANGER:** Harmful or fatal if swallowed or used improperly. A teaspoon is fatal to an adult.

**WARNING:** If swallowed, a teaspoon to an ounce is lethal to an adult.

**CAUTION:** If swallowed, an ounce to more than a pint is terminal to an adult.



explosive



flammable



toxic



corrosive



oxidizing



carcinogenic



harmful



irritant

**POISON:** Harmful or fatal if absorbed through the skin, ingested or inhaled.

**TOXIC:** Harmful or fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.

**IRRITANT:** Causes soreness or swelling of skin, eyes, mucous membranes, or respiratory system.

**FLAMMABLE:** Easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly.

**CORROSIVE:** A chemical or its vapors that can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed.

## Preventing household chemical emergencies

- Follow instructions on product's label for proper usage and storage.
- Store all products in their original container with a legible label.
- Buy only what you need.
- Never store chemicals near food.
- Keep chemicals out of the reach of children.
- Store volatile materials away from the house.
- Never mix household chemicals.
- Keep an A-B-C rated fire extinguisher readily available.
- Use safer alternative products.

### Non-toxic alternatives

- Use baking soda to clean bathtubs, sinks and toilets.
- Apply lemon juice mixed with vegetable oil to clean wood.
- Combine vinegar and water to make a non-toxic window cleaner.
- Use isopropyl alcohol as a disinfectant.

### If a household chemical...

- **Gets in your eyes:** Rinse your eyes with water for 15-20 min.
- **Gets on your skin:** Remove wet clothing and rinse skin for 15-20 min.
- **Is swallowed:** Call the Poison Control Center at (800)222-1222 or 9-1-1.
- **Is inhaled (e.g. poisonous gas):** Quickly get to fresh air and call Poison Control or 9-1-1.

## If you have a household chemical spill...

- Carefully clean up the spill using a towel. Make sure you wear rubber gloves for extra protection.
- If you have a mercury spill in your home, ventilate the area and keep children and pets away. Do not vacuum the spill. For more information call Oakland County Environmental Health at 248-424-7190 or look up our mercury web page at [www.oakgov.com/health/how\\_do\\_i/eh\\_mercury.html](http://www.oakgov.com/health/how_do_i/eh_mercury.html)



## Disposing of unused household chemicals

- Share unused chemicals with family members and friends.

Check out Oakland County's Waste Management website for more information on handling household waste at <http://www.oakgov.com/waste>

- Read the instructions on the container for proper disposal methods.



**NEVER MIX BLEACH AND AMMONIA, THIS MIXTURE FORMS DEADLY FUMES**