



Chemical Safety

The High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

We live with thousands of chemicals every day--pesticides, degreasers, weed killers, fertilizers, bug killers, solvents, cleaners, medicine, chemicals of all kinds. Each and every chemical has a purpose. If we use them correctly, they do the job we want them to do. If we misuse them, many chemicals can be harmful. They may make you sick or even cause death. We do not have to stop using chemicals to protect ourselves; we just have to use them safely.

Household Chemicals

- Bleach
- Lysol
- Ammonia
- 409
- Ajax



We are all familiar with household chemicals and, sometimes, we forget that they can be harmful. It is important to read the instructions before using them and keep them stored in a safe, secure location at all times. Remember that these common household chemicals can be very toxic.

Pesticides & Outdoor Chemicals

- Pesticides
- Oils
- Bug Sprays
- WD-40



Pesticides and outdoor chemicals may be very helpful around your home, but they must be used safely. Pesticides are designed to kill pests, but they also can cause harm to people, as well.

The label will:

- tell you how dangerous the chemical is,
- explain instructions for safe use, and
- must be followed carefully.

Chemical Storage

- No Food Containers
- In a Closed Cabinet
- Out of Reach
- No Container Leaks

All chemicals must be stored in their original containers, with the original label, so that they can be properly identified. Chemicals should never be placed in a food container because children may think it is something to eat or drink and become injured. Improper chemical storage is the most common reason that people become injured. In addition, chemicals should always be stored out of reach of children or animals

Chemical Labels

- Label Containers
- Always Read the labels
- What's On a Label

The label is the instructions, or rules, for safe use. It is very important that you read the label before using a chemical. The label will tell you how to protect yourself and what to do in case of emergency. It is important to know this information before the chemical is used.

Chemical Mixing

- Bleach
- Ammonia

IS IT OK?

You must always read the label before mixing any chemicals. Often, mixing chemicals together can cause very serious reactions. For example, mixing bleach and ammonia can cause serious breathing difficulties. The warning statement on the label will usually tell you what you should not do.



Personal Protection Equipment

What Does the Label Say?

- Gloves
- Shoes
- Coveralls
- Mask vs. Respirator

If chemicals can splash or spray on you, or if they are in the air where you are working, you should always protect yourself. Some chemicals can penetrate your skin. Do not use chemicals with bare hands.



There are many types of boots, coveralls, goggles, face shields and other types of protection you can buy. Be careful! Respirators, skin, and eye protection devices are made to protect you against certain chemicals. Remember, one type of device may protect you from one hazard and maybe not another. It is necessary to know which type of protective device, or devices, to use.

For Further Information Contact:

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