



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pesticide Fact Sheet #201  
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## HOUSEHOLD PESTICIDES

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This fact sheet describes how to keep your family safe when using household pesticides and gives a checklist of household items that pose a poison threat.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu>

## Household Pesticides

Pesticides are chemicals used in and around the home to control pests including insects, weeds, rodents, fungi, and germs. Many household products, such as bleach, are pesticides.

Liquid soap, furniture polish, and antifreeze are examples of household chemicals which have hazards similar to pesticides; some are quite dangerous, while others are much less harmful.



Signal words such as danger, warning, or caution, and precautionary statements (example: irritant to skin and eyes, harmful if swallowed) on labels of all household chemicals indicate product hazards and how to handle them safely (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)). Other words can also indicate the hazardous nature of products: flammable, corrosive, reactive, explosive, toxic, poison, volatile, combustible, or caustic. The use of the term “non-toxic” is for advertising only. It has no regulatory definition by the Federal government.

### Warning terms used are significant:

- **DANGER/POISON** – Harmful or fatal if swallowed. A taste to a teaspoonful taken by mouth could kill an average sized adult.
- **WARNING** – Harmful if swallowed. A teaspoonful to an ounce taken by mouth could kill an average sized adult.
- **CAUTION** – Harmful if swallowed. An ounce to over a pint taken by mouth could kill an average sized adult.

### Always keep household products in their original containers.

- It is very dangerous to put products in food and beverage containers. Children think that something in a familiar juice or soda bottle is good to drink.
- If you throw away the original container, you throw away important information needed in case of an emergency.
- If there is an accident, you need information on the original label to help with treatment.

- If the label tells you to mix a product in another container, use all of the mixture. If you cannot use all the mixture, label the new container for use in the future.

If a poisoning occurs, call the [Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center](#) at 1-800-222-1222. Be sure to have the product label near the phone.

### Poison Proof Your Home

Checklist of household items that pose a poison threat

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bedroom</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | <b>Bathroom</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Cosmetics<br>Baby powder<br>Nail polish/remover<br>Nail kit solutions<br>Jewelry cleaners<br>Medicines<br>Cough/cold medicines<br>Prescription drugs<br>Sleeping aids<br>Ointments<br>Perfumes/colognes<br>Shoe polish                                   |  | Aftershave lotion<br>All medicines<br>Bath oil<br>Cleansers/disinfectants<br>Deodorizers/sanitizers<br>Drain openers<br>Hair removers<br>Hair colors/permanents<br>Mouthwash<br>Ointments<br>Shampoo/hair products<br>Toilet bowl cleaners<br>Tub/tile cleaners |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Kitchen</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | <b>Laundry</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | <b>Garage/Workshop</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Ant/Roach killers<br>Carpet/upholstery cleaners<br>Furniture polish<br>Soaps/detergents<br>Corrosives<br>Ammonia<br>Dishwasher soap<br>Drain openers<br>Metal cleaners<br>Oven cleaners<br>Medicines<br>Diet aids<br>Pain killers<br>Vitamins/iron pills |  | Bleaches<br>Disinfectants<br>Soaps/detergents<br>Stain removers                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | Antifreeze<br>Fertilizer<br>Gasoline/kerosene<br>Hand cleaners<br>Lighter fluid<br>Lime/lye<br>Mothballs/moth cakes<br>Paint remover/thinner<br>Pesticides<br>Turpentine<br>Pool cleaner<br>Wheel polishes<br>Carburetor cleaners<br>Brake fluid<br>Batteries<br>Used motor oil<br>Wood stains/finishes<br>Epoxy glue |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | <b>Other</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | Poisonous houseplants<br>Plant food<br>Alcoholic beverages<br>Cigarettes<br>Nicotine patches<br>Pet shampoos/medicine<br>Flea collars/sprays<br>Fire extinguisher fluid                                                                                         |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |