

## How hazardous is the product?

The easiest way to determine if a product is considered hazardous is to read the label, looking for such signal words such as Danger, Caution, Warning and Toxic.

## What do I do if I have an accident?

The label should provide steps to take if the product contacts skin, or is inhaled or swallowed. Does the label give you enough information to prepare for and respond to these accidents?

## Proper Disposal for Cleaners

Use the product up and discard the container as the label instructs or take leftover cleaners to your local Regional Collection Center (RCC) for proper disposal. Call your local Solid Waste Agency or visit [www.SafeSmartSolutions.org](http://www.SafeSmartSolutions.org) for more information.



## Tips from Kaya

Keep the Iowa Poison Control Center hotline number  
1-800-222-1222

within easy reach should you ever need it. The Iowa Poison Control Center reported that the # 1 cause of accidental poisonings in children are household hazardous products.



**Change Our Ways.  
Change Our World.**



# CLEANERS

PROPER MANAGEMENT  
AND DISPOSAL





Cleaning products make our chores easier but some require special care during use, storage and disposal. Cleaning products, which are Household Hazardous Materials (HHMs) can pollute the environment if used or disposed of improperly. The cleaners in your home often have the same chemicals found in industrial products, just lower concentrations.

Cleaners may contain hazardous chemicals that can cause health concerns such as skin irritations, aggravation of respiratory diseases, and cancer. Health effects caused by hazardous waste can be acute (sudden or immediate onset of severe symptoms) or chronic (gradual onset of symptoms occurring through repeated exposures over an extended period of time).

Children, seniors and pets can be particularly sensitive to household chemicals. Repeated exposures during use and storage of HHMs can have negative impacts on health and safety.



## Changing the way we purchase household cleaners can change our world.

In response to customer demand and environmental responsibility many companies are now producing cleaners with natural ingredients such as coconut or lemon oil. Using less toxic or nature-based household products can help keep your home healthier, safer and helps protect the environment. Instead of having specialized cleaners for every room of your house, consider purchasing fewer products and use each one for several areas.



**One** simple guideline to follow when purchasing household hazardous materials is:

**Read the Label.** The most important time to read the label is **before** you buy a product. The label must tell you what the product is for, how to use it, the risks you are exposed to, and what to do if there is an accident. Product labels are required to have certain words called “**Signal Words**” to alert the consumer if a product is considered hazardous.



Products without the **signal words**, such as natural or plant-based cleaners, are generally considered to be greener alternatives. Examples of signal words are:

**Danger · Poison · Caution · Warning**

To learn more about these signal words visit [SafeSmartSolutions.org](http://SafeSmartSolutions.org)



**As you read product labels, ask yourself the following questions:**

### What is this product for?

Does it do just one job, or can I use it for several tasks? Will something else I already have do the job? Are there any restrictions, such as “avoid using product around plastic, metal, or fabric” or “use with ventilation, gloves or eye protection”?

### How do I use it?

Is the product ready-to-use, or do I mix it with water? How can I mix the product safely? How much will I need to do the job?