

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment suggests these nontoxic alternatives for improved environmental quality in your home:

**Basic ingredients**

Five basic ingredients serve as the building blocks for many safe home cleaning needs.

- Baking soda - cleans and deodorizes.

Softens water to increase sudsing and cleaning power of soap. Good scouring powder.

- Borax - cleans and deodorizes. Excellent disinfectant. Softens water. Available in

laundry section of grocery store.

- Soap - biodegrades safely and completely

and is nontoxic. Available in grocery stores and health food stores. Sold as liquid, flakes,

powder or in bars. Bars can be grated to

dissolve more easily in hot water. Insist on

soap without synthetic scents, color or other

additives. Synthetic detergents cause more poisonings than any other household product.

Even phosphate-free, biodegradable laundry detergent contributes to water pollution.

- Washing soda - cuts grease and removes stains. Disinfects, softens water. Available in laundry section of grocery store or in pure form from chemical supply houses as “sodium carbonate.”

- White vinegar - cuts grease and freshens.

For more information and directions to make your own cleaners visit: [http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/hhw/cleaners\\_in\\_home.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/hhw/cleaners_in_home.pdf)

## What should I NOT do with my household hazardous waste?

⇒ DO NOT mix household hazardous waste chemicals

⇒ DO NOT pour chemicals down the drains, sewers or toilets

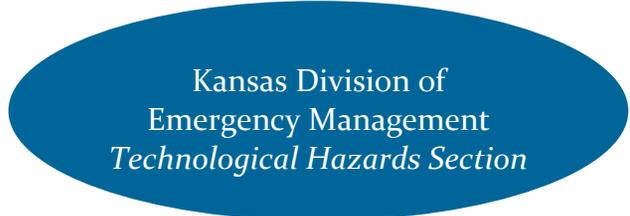
⇒ DO NOT burn chemicals

If you have questions about household chemicals visit:

- ◇ <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste>
- ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservematerials/hhw.htm>
- ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/waste/hazard/>
- ◇ <http://www2.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-waste>

**References**

- ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/labels.htm>
- ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/sandy/pdf/R2dealingHHW.pdf>
- ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/characteristic.htm>
- ◇ [http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/hhw/cleaners\\_in\\_home.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/hhw/cleaners_in_home.pdf)



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If you have questions about chemicals and their proper disposal contact your local Household Hazardous Waste Facility.



READ THE LABEL!

.....  
▶ **DANGEROUS  
COMMON  
HOUSEHOLD  
CHEMICALS**

**Don't Mix Chemicals!  
Read the Label First!**

[www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov)



## Before using chemicals, **READ THE LABEL!**

Labels use signal words to show how toxic or hazardous a product can be. They are: *Caution, Warning, and Danger*. Both you and your parents need to be careful when products with signal words on the label are used. Make sure you do not come in contact with any of the chemicals from these products. Remind your parents to always "Read the Label First" to know how to properly use these products and for safety information.

- *Danger* is the strongest signal word. If a label has the word *Danger* on it, your parents must be extremely careful using the product. If it is used the wrong way, you could get very sick, be hurt for a long time, go blind or even die. *Danger* is also used on products that could explode if they get hot.
- *Warning* is less strong than *Danger*, but it still means that you could get really sick or become seriously hurt. *Warning* is also used to identify products that can easily catch on fire.
- *Caution* shows that the product could hurt you, but it is less harmful than products with a danger or warning signal word. *Caution* is used on products that could bother your skin, make you sick if you breathed the fumes, or really hurt if the product got in your eyes.

You've got to be careful

*whenever you see a signal word!*

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/labels.htm>

### **\*READ THE PRODUCT LABELS\***

Read labels for disposal directions to reduce the risk of products exploding, igniting, leaking, mixing with other chemicals or posing other hazards on the way to a disposal facility.

Empty containers of household hazardous waste can pose hazards because of the residual chemicals that might remain.

Source:

<http://www.epa.gov/sandy/pdf/R2dealingHHW.pdf>

## What types of Household Hazardous Chemicals and Waste might be in my home?

### Household Cleaners

Ammonia-based cleaners; oven and drain cleaners; floor care products; aerosol cleaners; window cleaners; furniture polish; metal polishes and cleaners; tub, tile, toilet bowl cleaners

### Paint & Related Products

Latex-, water- and oil-based paint; turpentine paint stripper, rust remover, paint thinner, varnish

### Automotive Fluids & Batteries

Used motor oil and filters; gasoline and diesel fuel; kerosene; auto body repair products; windshield washer solution; anti-freeze; brake and transmission fluid; lead acid batteries; metal polish with solvent

### Lawn & Garden Care Products

Bug spray; fertilizer; pesticide/insecticide; fungicide; herbicide, weed killer

### Beauty Products & Medicines

Alcohol-based lotions; isopropyl alcohol; medicine; nail polish and remover; hair relaxers; dyes and permanents; products in aerosol cans; sharps

### Miscellaneous

Fluorescent lights; mercury thermometers; photographic chemicals; lighter fluids; shoe polish; fiberglass epoxy; swimming pool chemicals; moth balls; glue; mercury batteries

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/sandy/pdf/R2dealingHHW.pdf>

## Products are classified as hazardous if they have one of the following characteristics:

- **IGNITABLE** - Flammable or Combustible. Paint, thinners, other solvents and automotive products are the most flammable home products. Look for words on the product label like:
- **CORROSIVE** - Corrodes or "eats" through materials. Oven cleaners, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners and auto batteries are common corrosive products. Look for words on the product label like:
- **TOXIC** - Substance that is harmful or fatal when ingested or absorbed. Pesticides, solvents and some cleaners are toxic. Look for words on the product label like:
- **REACTIVE** - Can explode when exposed to heat, air, water or shock.

Source:

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/characteristic.htm>

### What do I do if someone is hurt by chemicals?

Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill. If you suspect someone has been poisoned by a chemical, call 911 or the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

If you suspect that a pet has been poisoned by a chemical, call the Animal Poison Control Center toll-free at 1-888-426-4435.