

Hazardous Materials

As many as 500,000 products pose physical or health hazards and can be defined as hazardous materials. Consumers can protect themselves against injuries from hazardous materials by using, storing and disposing of the material in the proper manner.



Shelter in Place

Following a hazardous materials spill, you may be given directions from authorities to either evacuate the area or "Shelter in Place." If the order is evacuation, do so immediately. If the order is to remain in your home, office or school, follow these directions:

- ☒ Move or stay inside and close all windows and doors.
- ☒ Turn off ventilation systems (fans, heating and air conditioning, fireplace dampers).
- ☒ Choose an interior room with the fewest windows and doors and seal it off.
- ☒ Cut plastic sheeting or garbage bags to fit over any windows or vents. Secure the plastic in place with duct tape.
- ☒ Dampen towels and place in the crack under the door.
- ☒ Turn on the radio and listen to any directions.
- ☒ Stay in the room until it is announced that it is safe to come out.



Words to know:

Toxic: Can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed or inhaled.

Flammable: Easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly.

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

Explosive: Violently bursts when exposed to pressure or heat.

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

Avoiding Household Chemical Accidents

- ☒ Discover what products in your home are hazardous. Learn how to use them safely and correctly.
- ☒ Do not mix one chemical with another. Mixed chemicals can cause serious injuries to eyes, skin and lungs.
- ☒ Keep chemicals in their original containers, since important information is printed on container labels.
- ☒ Make sure caps and lids on chemical containers are closed tightly.
- ☒ Keep all chemical products, including household cleaners, out of reach of small children and pets.
- ☒ There are many safe alternatives to household chemical products. Use them whenever possible.

