

TOP 10 "KILLER" HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

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Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances Washington, DC 20660

In just 26 seconds after any exposure to chemicals they can be found in every organ of the body.

AIR FRESHENERS -

Air fresheners interfere with your ability to smell by releasing a nerve-deadening agent. Even a small amount of this commonly known cleaning agent can cause cold sweats, convulsions, circulatory collapse, coma, and even death!! At all costs keep this chemical away from you and your loved ones. Known toxic chemicals found in an air freshener;

Formaldehyde: Highly toxic, known carcinogen.

Phenol: When phenol touches your skin it can cause it to swell, burn, peel, and break out in hives.

FURNITURE POLISH -

Repeated exposure can cause genetic changes, birth defects, cancer, liver, kidney, heart, and central nervous system damage. Remember, once this stuff is on your furniture it will continue to give off residual fumes.

Petroleum Distillates: Highly flammable, can cause skin and lung cancer. **DANGER!** Phenol: (see Air fresheners. Phenol).

Nitrobenzene: This chemical, easily absorbed through skin, is extremely toxic. Known reaction to skin contact can cause skin discoloration, shallow breathing, vomiting and death.

AMMONIA -

A very volatile chemical, it is very damaging to your eyes, respiratory tract and skin.

BLEACH -

Strong corrosive. Irritates the skin, eyes and respiratory tract. Vapors can cause fluid in the lungs, which can cause coma or death! **WARNING:** Never mix bleach with ammonia or other acids, even vinegar, the mixture causes **DEADLY** fumes!

LAUNDRY ROOM PRODUCTS -

Numerous products are used in our laundry rooms to clean our clothes, but what types of toxins are we using at the same time? One of the problems with most of these chemicals is that they are absorbed through the skin. As we continue to wash our clothes in these products, residue builds up in the fibers. As we wear our clothing these rub against our skin and these noxious chemicals are absorbed through the skin.

Sodium or calcium hypochlorite: Highly corrosive irritates or burns skin, eyes or respiratory tract. May cause pulmonary edema, vomiting or coma if ingested. Contact with other chemicals may cause chlorine fumes, which may be fatal.

Linear alkylate sulfonate: Absorbed through the skin. It has been known to cause liver ailments in test animals at comparatively low dosages.

Sodium Tripolophosphate: Irritates skin and mucous membranes. Causes vomiting.

TOILET BOWL CLEANERS -

Hydrochloric acid: Highly corrosive irritant to both skin and eyes. Damages kidneys and liver.

Hydrochloride Bleach: Corrosive, irritates or burns eye, skin and respiratory tract. May cause fluid in the lungs leading to coma or death. Contact with acids causes fumes, which may be fatal.

DISHWASHER DETERGENTS -

Most products contain chlorine in a dry form that is highly concentrated; and is the #1 cause of child poisonings (poison control center statistics).

DISHWASHING LIQUID & ANTIBACTERIAL CLEANERS -

The new concern is salmonella. While this can be a potentially deadly bacterium, we think a little common sense would stop it from affecting you or your family. Typical cleaners claiming to inhibit salmonella might be worse than the problem itself!

Triclosan: Absorption through the skin can be tied to liver damage. Some artificial dyes (included in some dishwashing liquids) used in food products are allowed, even though they are a known cancer-causing agent. Not to mention the hazard of soaking your hands in these products many times over your lifetime.

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY SHAMPOO -

Designed to overpower the stain, they accomplish the task by using highly toxic substances. Some include: **Perchloroethylene:** Known carcinogen, damages liver, kidney and nervous system.

Ammonium Hydroxide: Corrosive, extremely irritant to eyes, skin and respirator passages.

DRAIN CLEANERS -

Most drain cleaners contain lye, hydrochloric acid or trichloroethane.

Lye: Caustic, burns skin and eyes. If ingested will damage esophagus, stomach.

Hydrochloric acid: Corrosive, eye and skin irritant, damages kidneys, liver and digestive tract.

Trichloroethane: Eye and skin irritant, nervous system depressant; damages liver and kidneys.

OVEN CLEANERS -

Next to drain cleaner: oven cleaners are some of the most toxic chemicals in your kitchen. If you read the label carefully you would probably be afraid to even pick up a can, let alone use it. Its lingering affects can sometimes be smelled days or even weeks after use. Not to mention that fine aromatic taste it leaves on your food after it comes out of your newly cleaned oven!! These products come in aerosol spray containers. These sprays send thousands of tiny droplets of ammonia or lye, into the air that land on your skin or in your eyes, and of course they are easily inhaled. Oh, and another thing unless you have six foot arms. I'm not sure how you can clean your oven with these highly toxic substances without putting your head in the oven, so you might as well get a gas mask too!!

Sodium or Potassium Hydroxide (Lye): Caustic, strong irritant burns to both skin and eyes. Inhibits reflexes, will cause severe tissue damage if swallowed.

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