



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