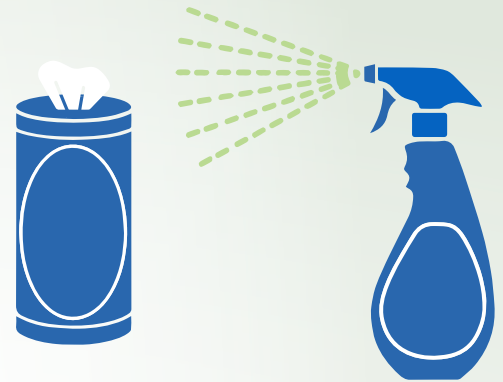


Hazards on the Homefront

Household Hazardous Products and Safer Choices



Activity Guide for Grades 6-12 at home

Household hazardous products are items that can be harmful to you, the community and the natural environment. There are many products that could be hazardous in our living spaces if they are used, stored, or disposed of incorrectly. Use this activity guide to keep yourself and the people you live with safe.



Safer Choices Challenge

Take the Safer Choices Challenge! Come back to this page after visiting the different sections of this activity guide. Then complete actions on the board to get a BINGO (3 in a row - down, across or diagonal). By the time you're done with this activity guide, you may be able to complete all the actions on the board!

<p>Circle the word CAUTION in yellow whenever you see it in this guide</p>	<p>Share one tip for safely storing a household hazardous product with another person</p>	<p>Make the Safer Cleaner Recipe in this guide</p>
<p>Look for these images on product labels the next time you visit a store</p>  	<p>Circle the word DANGER in red whenever you see it in this guide</p>	<p>Read the label of a shampoo or liquid soap bottle – are there signal words?</p>
<p>Name one area of your home that you can help clean</p>	<p>Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds</p>	<p>Visit the Factoria Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off website to learn more about safe disposal</p>

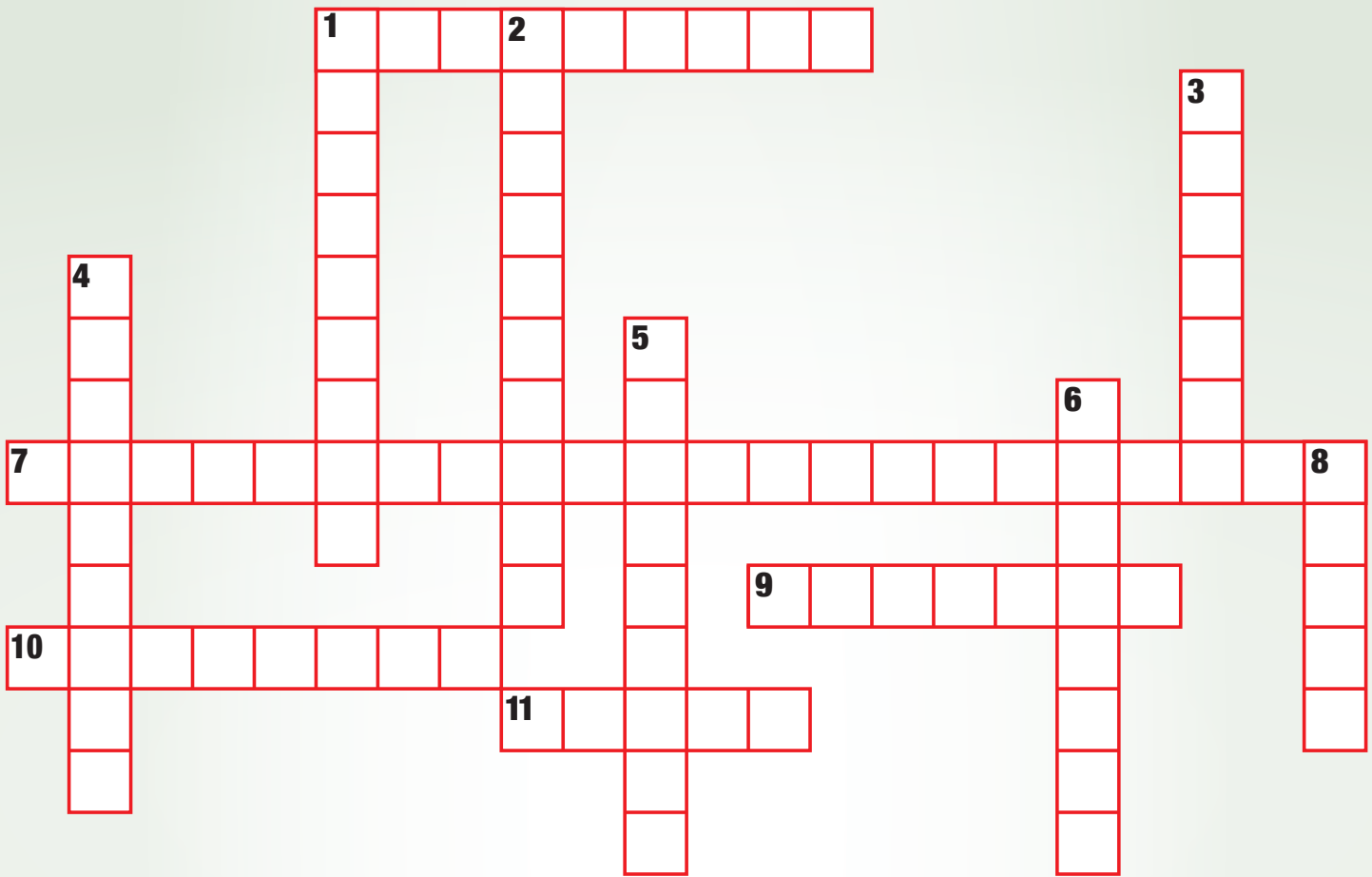
SAFETY TIP

Only have one product container open at a time, especially cleaning products, to avoid dangerous reactions. Never mix cleaning products.



Know the Hazards – Crossword

Use the clues to solve the crossword puzzle and learn more about household hazardous products.



Across

- 1) Where you live and who you live with
- 7) Describes actions to prevent harm and stay safe if using a product
- 9) Something you buy at a store
- 10) Getting rid of a product when you are done with it
- 11) Always read a product's _____

Down

- 1) Can cause harm
- 2) Required on hazardous product labels to show possible risks (2 words)
- 3) Placing products in your home for future use
- 4) Eats away materials and living tissue
- 5) Can catch fire or explode at low temperatures
- 6) Can react with air, water or other products to cause dangerous mixtures
- 8) Harmful if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin

Word bank

- Corrosive
- Disposal
- Flammable
- Hazardous
- Household
- Label
- Precautionary Statement
- Product
- Reactive
- Signal Word
- Storage
- Toxic

SAFETY TIPS

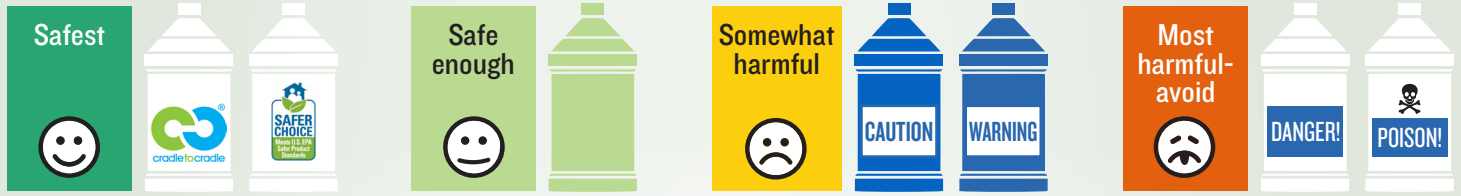
When possible, choose to buy products with an EPA Safer Choice logo, or with no signal words. Avoid products labeled "Danger" or "Poison".

Answer Key

Across – 1) Household; 7) Precautionary Statement; 9) Product; 10) Disposal; 11) Label
Down – 1) Hazardous; 2) Signal Word; 3) Storage; 4) Corrosive; 5) Flammable; 6) Reactive; 8) Toxic



Read the Label Before You Buy



Please note: EPA Safer Choice products are the safest in their class, even if it says CAUTION on the label.

Label Reading

Labels give us important information, including **SIGNAL WORDS** and **PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS**. This information helps us learn about potential hazards. Read the labels to complete the table.

Signal Words – CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, and POISON are four signal words used on hazardous product labels to show possible risks.

Precautionary Statement – describes actions to prevent harm and stay safe if using a product

Main Hazard – the key reason why a product may be harmful – a product may be toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive

See the crossword puzzle on page 2 for definitions of main hazards.

Product Label	What is the signal word?	What is the precautionary statement?	What is the main hazard?
CAUTION – Do not mix with other cleaning products.			
WARNING – Do not use near heat or flame. Do not store at temperatures higher than 120 degrees.			
DANGER – Wear gloves and protective eyewear when handling this product.			
POISON – Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep away from children and pets.			

Cleaning vs. Disinfecting

Most of the time, we need to *clean* to remove dirt and grime. Sometimes we will need to *disinfect* frequently-touched areas of our living space to kill germs, especially when people are sick. Sort the areas of your home below based on whether you think they should be cleaned or disinfected.

Answer Key

label reading: signal words are CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, POISON; precautionary statements are "Do not mix with other cleaning products," "Do not use near heat or flame. Do not store at temperatures higher than 120 degrees," "Wear gloves and protective eyewear when handling this product," "Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep away from children and pets."; main hazards are reactive, flammable, corrosive, toxic

cleaning vs. disinfecting: Every household is unique and may have different disinfecting needs. Here are sample answers: faucet- disinfect; sink- disinfect; toilet- disinfect; mirror- clean; wood floor- clean; curtain/blinds- clean; window- clean; doorknob- disinfect

Store it Right!

No matter what products we use at home, it is important to know how to safely store them.

SAFETY TIP

Always store household hazardous products out of reach of young children and pets, as well as away from food.

Spot the Difference

Can you spot the differences between the two kitchens?

Find the hazards and safer storage choices and list them in the spaces below.



Hazards?



Safer Storage Choices?

Answer Key

Safer storage choices – Flammable cooking spray stored in a cool cupboard. Non-chlorine bleach stored up high in a separate cupboard above the sink, away from food. Products labeled “Caution” or “Warning” stored up high in a separate cupboard above the sink, away from food. Roach trap on the floor instead of bug spray. No chemicals stored in cupboard with food.
Hazards – Flammable cooking spray next to lit stove. Bleach stored next to food. Bug spray can on the floor. Open cupboard under the sink with hazardous chemicals inside. Products labeled “Danger” and “Poison” in the cupboard under the sink.

Where does it go when I'm done?

How can we **SAFELY DISPOSE** of household hazardous products? Draw a line to match the items listed on the left with where you think the item should go when you are done with them or no longer want them - down the drain, into the trash, or to the *free* household hazardous waste drop-off site at Factoria.



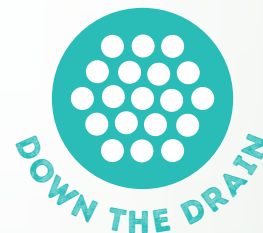
FLUSHABLE WIPES



(Empty)



TRASH



SAFETY TIP

- *Pouring household hazardous products down the drain or placing them in the garbage can be harmful to our environment and people in our community. Take unwanted household hazardous products to the Factoria Hazardous Waste Collection site. Visit <https://www.hazwastehelp.org> for more information.*

Answer Key

Flushable wipes - Trash; Batteries - Haz Waste site; CFL bulb - Haz Waste site; Bug Spray - Haz Waste site; Disinfectant - Haz Waste site; Do not pour anything down the drain to dispose of it! Many cleaning chemicals cannot be removed by wastewater treatment and can enter waterways.

Additional Resources

Hazardous Waste Management Program - www.hazwastehelp.org



- **Factoria Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Site** - <https://www.hazwastehelp.org/HHW/disposal-locations.aspx#factoria>
- **Hazardous Waste Management Program - What to Bring, What NOT to Bring** - <https://www.hazwastehelp.org/HHW/whattobring.aspx>
- **Green Cleaning Recipes** - <https://www.hazwastehelp.org/health/documents/recipes-for-safer-cleaning-kit.pdf>

EPA - Disinfectants for Use Against Coronavirus - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Safer Cleaning Recipes Try your hand at s _____ ning! Make your own Safer Cleaner.

Window & mirror cleaner

- 


1/2 cup white vinegar*
spray bottle
 - 

fill bottle to top with water
 - 

spray and rub with a lint-free cloth or newspaper
- Note: Not for use on painted surfaces.*
-  * Vinegar smell goes away once dry.

Floor cleaner

- 

mix 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap
1 gallon warm water
bucket
 - 

mop with solution
- Note: Adjust recipe depending on liquid dish soap you use.*



SAFETY TIP

- Avoiding products that say CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER or POISON can keep you and the people you live with safer.



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