



Do you or someone else in your home use products like detergents, nail polish remover, gasoline, hair spray, paint and bleach? These products and many more that are commonly found in our homes can be **FLAMMABLE**, **TOXIC**, **CORROSIVE** or **EXPLOSIVE/REACTIVE**. Here are a few guidelines that will help you use hazardous household products safely.

- 1. Use a less hazardous product.** For example, use a water-based paint instead of an oil-based paint.
- 2. Read labels carefully.** Know what you are buying and how to use the product.
- 3. Buy only what you need and use what you buy.** This will eliminate or at least reduce the amount you need to dispose of properly.
- 4. Do not mix bleach and ammonia.** Some products may react and become toxic.
- 5. Keep labels on the containers.** Keep this important information available on how to use and identify the product.
- 6. Keep products in their original containers.** Some chemicals react with plastic materials. Never store chemicals in old food containers.
- 7. Do not reuse chemical product containers** Many chemicals leave residue in their containers.
- 8. Properly dispose of all hazardous household products.** Some products can contaminate water resources (including drinking water), soil and air.
- 9. Take additional precautions.** Avoid wearing soft contact lenses when using hazardous household products – they can absorb vapors and trap them against the eyes. Wear old clothes – wash separately and dry on the line if possible. Be sure to wash all exposed body parts when you finish using a product. Be sure to clean up before you eat – even if you've used gloves.
- 10. Put Mr. Yuk or similar stickers on hazardous household products** and teach children to leave them alone. (Mr. Yuk is used by permission from the Pittsburgh Poison Center.) Visit [www.vpmc.com/services/poison-center/pages/about-yuk.aspx](http://www.vpmc.com/services/poison-center/pages/about-yuk.aspx).

