

Hazardous Household Chemical Mixtures

Many household items, which alone seem perfectly harmless, are not when mixed with other household products. Some are okay while in the bottle and used only an ounce at a time but when the bottle is broken, many become toxic. They may mix with others on the floor, or they may be released in large enough quantities to create a health hazard to those in close proximity to them To name a few:

CLOROX or any household bleach (chlorine) when mixed with toilet bowl cleaners, swimming pool acid, ammonia, rust remover, or any acid-type substance, chlorine creates a hazardous gas.

HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA (Ammonium Hydroxide) when combined with bleach, pool acid or Liquid Plumber, Household Ammonia creates a toxic gas

OVEN CLEANER Has sodium hydroxide in it (commonly know as lye) and can cause burns to skin eyes, and mucous membranes Fumes are extremely dangerous to wearers of contact lenses Produces extreme heat when mixed with sulfuric acid (Liquid Plumber) or hydrochloric acid (toilet bowl cleaner).

LIQUID PLUMBER Contains sulfuric acid When mixed with bleach, pool chlorine, or any other chloride based substance, can create chlorine gas (used in chemical warfare).

PAINT REMOVER Contains methylene chloride, a known cancer-causing chemical may rupture violently during a fire.

HOUSEHOLD PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES when mixed together in large quantities, can become dangerous

RAID or Insect Sprays: Flammable around heat and open flame. Contains a chemical that can cause aspiration pneumonia when breathed in large quantities.

LSOTOX GARDEN SPRAY Contains benzene, hexachloride, xylene, and trichloroethylene-all known to cause cancer.

ORTHO DORMANT SPRAY Contains calcium polysulfide which, when it comes into contact with an acid type chemical could give off a highly toxic extremely flammable gas.

MALATHION (insect killer) Contains xylene which, when inhaled in large enough quantities can cause aspiration pneumonia.

All previously-mentioned products should be stored with these hazards in mind. Even though most of them come in plastic containers, they should be stored on anchored shelves which have some type of restraint across them to prevent bottles from falling. The most hazardous items should be stored at floor level.

Propane tanks for gas barbecues should be anchored so as to avoid putting strain on the hose. After use, turn off at the tank-not just at the barbecue. Remember, plastics become brittle when exposed to ultraviolet light (sunlight). Storage should be away from heat and sunlight!

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) publishes hazardous waste material: