

What is Hazardous at Home?

CHALLENGE

Examine various rooms in your home for common materials that may be hazardous. Be creative in your search. Look for signal words that tell about a substance's hazards. Below are some signal words listed from greatest hazard to least:

POISON	=	highly toxic
DANGER	=	extremely flammable, corrosive, or highly toxic
WARNING	=	moderate hazard
CAUTION	=	mild/moderate hazard

Substances to investigate include cleaners, auto fluids, laundry products, garden products, and painting supplies. Be sure to follow appropriate safety procedures for handling hazardous substances.



SAFETY

Use caution when handling any possibly hazardous materials, whether in school or at home. Before beginning to investigate hazardous materials in your home, notify your parents or guardians about this assignment. Explain that you are learning about hazardous materials, and explain this assignment. If they approve your work to investigate potentially hazardous materials at home, ask them to sign below.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

PROCEDURE

1. Look for products that may be hazardous. Examine their labels.
2. Use the information on the container to record information about each product on Student Sheet 2.4, "Household Hazardous Materials Table."
3. What type(s) of hazard(s) does this product pose? This information may be listed on the label.

ANALYSIS

1. In what ways are hazardous materials used in homes?
2. Was each product labeled clearly enough that you knew its hazard(s) easily? Explain.
3. List at least three actions you can take to reduce exposure to hazardous materials at home.