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SPECIALISTS IN FIRST AID, SAFETY, SPILL & FIRE EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 56 YEARS.

Household Chemical **Safety**

Even though it doesn't feel like it, Spring is upon us and with it comes the fun task of Spring Cleaning. As such, it seems like a good time to go over some household chemical safety tips. There are many household chemicals in a home (such as cleaners, hair products, nail polish, etc) and they won't pose a danger as long as they are used and stored in the recommended way. Here are some things to consider:

1) Read labels and follow directions carefully

Product labels appear on all chemicals. Labels with hazard symbols and safety warnings give information you need to know to use the product safely. Learn the symbols. Follow the instructions and you could prevent an injury. You could save a life. Words to look for: DANGER - WARNING - CAUTION.

- *Poison*: can injure or kill if absorbed through the skin, ingested or inhaled.
- *Toxic*: can cause injury or death if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.
- *Irritant*: causes soreness or swelling of skin, eyes, mucous membranes, or respiratory system.
- *Flammable*: easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly.
- *Flammable Liquid*: has a flash point below 37.8°C.
- *Combustible Liquid*: has a flash point from 37.8°C to 93.3°C.
- *Corrosive*: a chemical or its vapours that can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed.

2) Wear the recommended Personal Protective Equipment

Make sure you have proper face, respiratory and hand protection (such as gloves, goggles, and masks). Kit Care offers a large variety of these products to keep you and your loved ones safe.

3) Keep Chemicals out of the reach of children

Teach children that the symbols mean (such as "DANGER! DO NOT TOUCH"). Also, make sure that child-resistant containers are working. Remember: child-resistant does not mean child-proof and close the cap on the container tightly, even if you set it down for just a moment.

4) Keep chemicals in original containers

Make sure the symbols and labels on containers are not removed or covered up. Household chemicals should not be transferred to different containers unless the container is properly labelled and compatible with the chemical. In addition chemicals should never be transferred to containers that originally contained food (such as soda bottles or milk jugs).

Make sure to read next month's Care Newsletter for additional household chemical safety tips. You can also find out more information on the Government of Canada's website, which you can view **here**.



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