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# Care

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

## Household Chemical **Safety**

Last month's Care Newsletter offered 4 safety tips when dealing with household chemicals (where you can read by clicking [here](#)) and this month's Care Newsletter will continue on that topic and offer 3 more tips. Don't forget, you can read more about Chemical Safety by visiting the Government of Canada's website by clicking [here](#).

### 1) Don't store chemicals with food

Household chemicals should not be stored with food products as they could spill contaminating your food.

### 2) Don't store flammable liquids or gases in the home

Propane cylinders, gas cans, charcoal lighter and automotive fluids should not be stored in the house. Compressed gasses like propane should be stored outside or in sheds that are extremely well ventilated. Never store flammable liquids or gasses near sources of heat or ignition, and only store them in their original containers.

### 3) Never mix chemicals together - some mixtures can produce harmful gases

Some of the common chemicals found in your home shouldn't be mixed together. It's one thing to say "don't mix bleach with ammonia", but it's not always easy to know what products contain these two chemicals. Here are some products you may have around the home that shouldn't be combined.

- Bleach with Acid Toilet Bowl Cleaners: This mixture can result in toxic, potentially deadly fumes.
- Bleach with Vinegar: Vinegar is a type of acid and will produce toxic chlorine vapour when mixed with bleach. Mixing chlorine bleach with any acid can cause injury or death if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.
- Bleach with Ammonia: Bleach again? We're really driving the point home that bleach shouldn't be mixed with any other chemicals. Mixing bleach with ammonia will produce toxic and potentially lethal vapours.
- Different Brands of one type of Product: Don't mix different cleaner brands together. They may react violently, produce toxins, or become ineffective..
- Highly Alkaline Products with Highly Acidic Products: Acids and bases (alkalis) can react violently, presenting a splash hazard. Acids and bases are caustic and may cause chemical burns.
- Certain Disinfectants with Detergents: Don't mix disinfectants with 'quaternary ammonia' listed as an ingredient with a detergent. The effectiveness of the disinfectant may be neutralized.

We hope these tips will be useful to you and help prevent a potential accident from ever occurring!



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