



Before, During, and After a Household Chemical Emergency

Before a Household Chemical Emergency

- Conduct a household hazardous item inventory. Look for items such as cleaning products, indoor pesticides, automotive products, workshop or painting supplies, lawn and garden products, and other flammable items. A comprehensive list can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/chemical/household.shtm>
- Buy only as much of a chemical as you think you will use. Share leftover material with neighbors or donate to a business, charity, or government agency.
- Keep products in their original packaging. Never remove labels and never store hazardous materials in food containers.
- Keep materials in a hard to reach place away from children.
- Do not mix hazardous materials with other products.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for proper use.
- Never smoke or use chemical products next to an open flame.
- Dispose of hazardous materials correctly. For disposal information visit the McKinney Water Utilities and Infrastructure <http://www.mckinneytexas.org/index.aspx?NID=502>
- Have emergency numbers posted by a telephone, including the Poison Control Center <http://www.1-800-222-1222.info/>

During a Household Chemical Emergency

- If there is a danger of fire or explosion, get out of the house immediately. Once you are outside and safely away from danger, call 9-1-1.
- Stay upwind away from fumes.
- Recognize the symptoms of toxic poisoning:
 - Difficulty breathing.
 - Irritation of the eyes, skin, throat, or respiratory tract.
 - Change in skin color.
 - Dizziness, headache, or blurred vision.
 - Clumsiness or lack of coordination.
 - Cramps or diarrhea.
- If someone is experiencing toxic poisoning symptoms, find the hazardous material containers to provide information. Call the Poison Control Center and follow the dispatcher's instructions carefully.

After a Household Chemical Emergency

- If there is a spill, clean it up immediately with rags. Let the fumes in the rag evaporate outside, then wrap in newspaper and place in a sealed plastic bag.
- Conduct another household inventory and properly dispose of any materials you do not use to prevent another emergency.