



## **EPA Healthy Homes Assignment – Instructor version**

In this activity, we will take the EPA Healthy Homes Tour to learn about some of the chemicals that are often found in our homes. Pay attention to the different types of chemicals, and think about how they should be used appropriately.

### **Directions:**

1. Open your web browser and go to <http://www.epa.gov/kidshometour/>
2. On the left panel, click on the link Home Tour
3. Choose a room in the house and click on it
4. In the room, click on various chemicals in the house and read about their description.
5. Fill out the following questions

**Question 1:** Name of room in the EPA Home Tour \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What chemicals do you recognize?

**Question 3:** From the above list, choose two chemicals

Chemical 1: \_\_\_\_\_

*Routes of exposure:* (Ingestion, inhalation, dermal. Also accepted – eating/drinking, breathing, touching)

*Way to reduce exposure:* (open windows, wear gloves, wear glasses, use alternative chemicals)

Chemical 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*Routes of exposure:* (Ingestion, inhalation, dermal. Also accepted – eating/drinking, breathing, touching)

*Way to reduce exposure:* (open windows, wear gloves, wear glasses, use alternative chemicals)

Once you have looked at all the objects in your room, use the links on the left-hand menu to answer the following questions.

**Question 4:** Some of the chemicals in the house had warning labels on them, saying they could cause problems with my health. Does that mean I shouldn't use them, because I could get sick?

Whether you get sick (have a toxic effect) from any chemical substance is dependent on the amount of chemical you are exposed to or more accurately, the dose. Dose is the amount of a chemical that your body absorbs and processes. The effect can vary depending on the age, weight, and overall health of the person. For example, children are often more easily affected by chemicals than adults because they are younger and they usually weigh less than adults.

To get a better understanding of what dose means, think about when you have a bad headache. The label on a children's pain relief medicine may say: "4 tablets for children weighing 60-80 pounds." If your mom only gave you two tablets and you weigh 65 pounds, your headache may not go away. If you were to take 10 tablets, you could get very sick, maybe even die.

**Source:** <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/questions.htm> **Question 4**

**Question 5:** If you have an empty cleaning bottle, how should you get rid of it? Many household products sold in plastic or glass containers are recyclable. To find out if you can recycle a household product's container read the section on storage and disposal on the label of the container. It will also tell you how to make the container ready for recycling.

You can safely store unused pesticides or other household products until you need them again. If you don't want to keep them, however, you need to get rid of or dispose of them properly. Many communities have waste collection programs for unwanted household chemicals. Do **not** pour leftover pesticides or other household products on the ground or in a stream in your backyard or anywhere else. Do **not** bury them anywhere or burn household product containers. Do **not** pour leftover pesticides or other household products down the sink, into the toilet or down a sewer or street drain. Many wastewater treatment systems cannot handle that type of pollution. You would be polluting the environment if you dispose of leftover household products in any of those ways.

**Source:** <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/questions.htm>  
**Questions 8 and 9**