

Reading Household Product Labels

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR TRAINING:

20-25 hazardous household products along with a few non-hazardous/non-toxic products for comparison (See table below)

Assemble a number of household products including hazardous household products, e.g., kitchen products (cleansers, drain cleaners), bathroom items (toothpaste, toilet bowl cleaner), household cleaners (detergents), lawn and garden supplies (fertilizers, pesticides), automotive and paint supplies, etc. Have a variety of products with the signal words: danger, danger- poison, warning, and caution. Also include some non-hazardous products, e.g., shampoo, toothpaste, and other non-toxic substances, i.e., products that do not have any signal words.

To find cleaning products, look under your kitchen and bathroom sinks, or in the laundry room. Many toxic and flammable products, such as paints, adhesives, and auto supplies may be stored in your garage, basement, or outdoor storage sheds.

Please find household products that are varied in use and in storage location. The products you select should also represent each of the three signal words, and five hazardous properties. I have created a possible list of household products that you may have in your home.

Household Products	Signal Words	Hazardous Properties
Pesticide*	Caution	Toxic
Rat killer*	Caution	Toxic
Ajax cleanser	Caution	Strong sensitizer, irritant, corrosive
Sealant	Caution	Irritant
All purpose cleaners (Formula 409)	Warning or caution	Irritant
Soap, cosmetics, paints, polishes		Strong sensitizer
Toilet bowl cleaner	Danger	Toxic, corrosive
Oven cleaner	Caution or danger	Flammable
WD-40	Danger	Flammable
Rubber cement or hair spray		Flammable
Paint or varnish removers	Danger/Poison	Flammable
Drain cleaner (Mr. Plumber)	Danger	Corrosive
Brake fluid, antifreeze		Corrosive
Bleach	Danger	Toxic, irritant, and corrosive
Elmer's glue	None	NA
Markers – water based	None	NA
Shampoo	None	NA
Liquid hand soap	None	NA

*NOTE: At least one of the household products has to be a pesticide that is commonly used in the home, e.g., ant killers, insect spray, or cleaning products that advertise as “antibacterial” “disinfectant” and/or “kills mold”. Be sure that ALL products for participants to handle, i.e., containers are clean and closed