

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## For Teachers: Home Inventory of Hazardous Household Products

### Introduction

The average home has 60 hazardous household products. Having students do a room-by-room inventory of hazardous products at home will allow them and their household to understand which products are being used and where.

### Before You Begin

For safety reasons, prior to assigning this task, reach out to families and ask them to be present during this inventory to avoid any incidents. A draft letter to families can be found on the next page.

### Directions

- 1 Give students the [Instructions](#), the [sample Home Inventory Worksheet](#) and [blank Home Inventory Worksheet](#) found on pages 3-5.
- 2 As a class, review the activity [Instructions](#), noting that the Instructions include a Hazardous Signal Words and Properties Reference Sheet.
- 3 Ask students to conduct an inventory of hazardous household products in up to three rooms or areas of their home using the [blank Home Inventory Worksheet](#) on page 5. They will be able to identify hazardous products if they contain one or more of the property or signal words that you reviewed.
- 4 Once students have conducted their inventories, take a class-wide tally of products, and determine the average number of products and the top rooms/ areas in the home with these products. Discuss the most popular products found and potential less-toxic replacements.

### Hazardous Household Product Identification

Students will be able to assess if a product is hazardous if it contains the signal words or properties below. Products that contain these words will be added to the student's home inventory worksheet under the corresponding category.

### Signal Words

- **Caution** – Moderate Hazard
- **Warning** – Moderate Hazard
- **Danger** – Highest Hazard
- **Poison** – Highest Hazard

### Properties

- **Corrosive** Corrosives are materials that can eat away and chemically destroy materials including living tissues.
- **Toxic** Toxicity is the ability and strength of a substance to cause poisonous effects to living things if swallowed, inhaled, injected, or through contact with the skin.
- **Flammable/Combustible** Flammable or combustible materials can catch on fire at relatively low temperatures. These materials don't always require a flame or a match to ignite. Heat, sparks, or static discharge may make them catch fire or even explode.
- **Reactive** Reactive materials can react with air, water, or other substances to cause fire, explosions, or toxic gases.



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## Worksheet: Home Inventory of Hazardous Household Products

Dear Family,

Our class is currently learning about hazardous products in the home and words that describe their chemical properties. **Because of the hazardous nature of some household products, it is very important that adult supervision is provided for this at-home exercise.**



*Hazardous household products can be found all throughout the home!*

Your child will make a list of hazardous products from at least three different rooms or areas of your home. Your child will identify each product and its listed chemical properties. Some of the words they may see on the product label include toxic, corrosive, reactive, and flammable/combustible. They may also see the signal words CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, and POISON to indicate varying levels of hazard. The information they collect will be recorded on a worksheet provided by their teacher.

When you and your child have completed the home survey, please sign the Home Inventory Worksheet and have your child return it to the teacher during the next in-classroom lesson. Results from this activity will be used to assist student learning in a classroom lesson.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

(TEACHER)



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
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**650-207-3115**  
[smchealth.org/hhw](http://smchealth.org/hhw)

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## Home Inventory of Hazardous Household Products

### Introduction

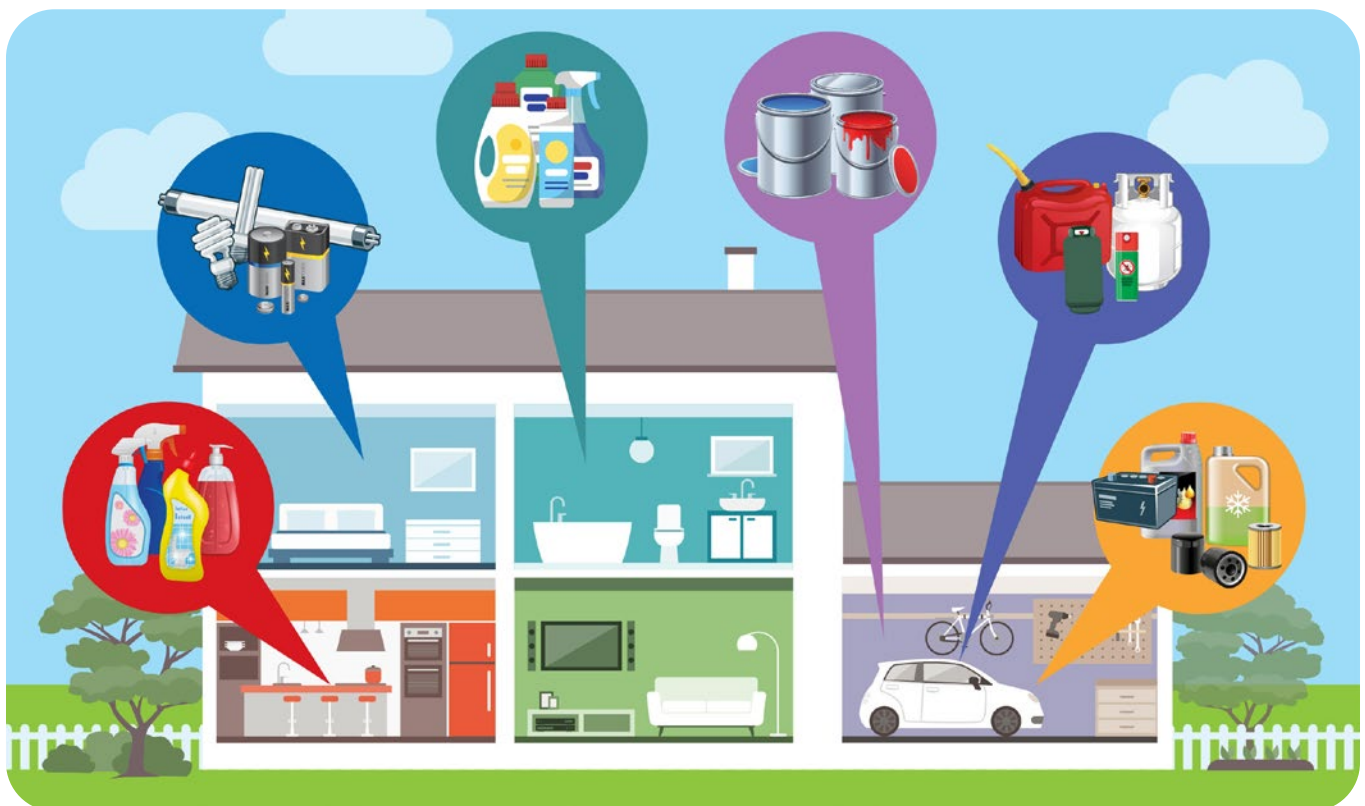
The average home has 60 hazardous household products. In this exercise, you will complete a room-by-room inventory of hazardous products in your home, allowing you to understand which products are being used and where they are located.

### Before You Begin

For safety reasons, make sure that an adult family member or guardian is available to be present during your inventory to avoid any incidents.

### Directions

- 1 Familiarize yourself with the Signal Words and Properties of hazardous products using the Hazardous Signal Words and Properties Reference Sheet.
- 2 Go to a room in your home where you think you are likely to find a product that contains hazardous household products, like a garage, kitchen, or bathroom.
- 3 Using the Signal Words and Properties as a guide, locate items that you believe qualify as “hazardous.” Describe your findings in Home Inventory Worksheet.



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## EXAMPLE Hazardous Household Product • Home Inventory Worksheet EXAMPLE

Room/Area	Name and Use of Product	Chemical Property(s) / Signal Word
<b>Bathroom</b>	Bleach Cutex nail polish remover Liquid Plumbr clog destroyer	Corrosive / danger Flammable / Warning Corrosive, toxic/ Danger
<b>Kitchen</b>	Cascade dishwasher pods Easy-off degreaser	Toxic / Caution Corrosive, toxic / Danger
<b>Garage</b>	Paint & varnish remover Oil lubricant Brake fluid Prestone Antifreeze and coolant	Flammable, toxic / Danger - Poison Toxic / no signal word listed Toxic / Warning Toxic / Warning

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## Hazardous Household Product • Home Inventory Worksheet

Room/Area

Name and Use of Product

Chemical Property(s) / Signal Word
