



TOXIC



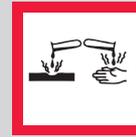
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HAZARD



POISONOUS



HARMFUL



CORROSIVE

# CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

## TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT AROUND THE HOME



Every home uses them - chemical products to clean and disinfect around the home. Whilst these products make our lives easier, it is important to note that such products contain at least one active chemical ingredient necessitating cautious use and handling of the content and empty containers. Household cleaning chemicals can harm humans and the environment if not managed correctly.



### WATER-SOLUBLE CHEMICAL CLEANERS

Water-soluble household cleaning products include laundry products, dishwashing products, bathroom and all-purpose cleaners, personal care products, antibacterial cleaners, etc. They can be found as liquids, solids or spray mists and are packaged in bottles, spray bottles, containers with lids, pressurised cans as well as paper and plastic wrappings.

Water-soluble cleaners are risky due to the presence of corrosive and highly reactive chemicals such as caustic soda flakes. Examples are a strong alkali used as drain cleaner and strong corrosive hydrochloric pool acid. Other water-soluble chemicals include oxidising agents such as swimming pool hypochlorite, chlorine bleach and ammonia solutions that are highly corrosive and can cause respiratory problems.

### NON-WATER-SOLUBLE CHEMICAL CLEANERS

Household cleaning chemicals in this range include furniture oils and polishes, abrasive metal-cleaning solutions and solvent-based spot removers.

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

Chemical products should not be stored with food. All cleaning chemicals as well as empty containers should be stored individually and out of reach of children. The individual products should be used in accordance with the labelling. The residue of different empty containers may not be compatible with each other and may cause a chemical reaction when mixed or if leakage occurs during storage. It is wise to wrap cleaning chemical bottles individually in newspaper and pack the containers upright in a cardboard box when transporting them to the nearest recycling centre or relevant drop-off.

### MANAGING THE RISK

Most household chemicals are safe to use and are environmentally friendly when the directions on the packaging are followed. When such products are used in excess or incorrectly and/or disposed of into the sewer, it could have harmful cumulative effects. Cleaning chemicals should all have labels indicating the composition of the substance, directions for use, the risks to human health as well as the disposal suggestion for the empty container.

The website of the chemical supplier or manufacturer should provide more detailed information relating to the product, such as the material's safety data sheet. If you have spent solutions or expired products, think before you pour cleaning chemical waste down the drain or toilet. No chemical substances should be disposed of in the municipal sewer or stormwater systems.

## SAFETY SYMBOLS

<p><b>FIGURE 1:</b></p> <p>*Oxidising substances may yield oxygen and can cause fires.</p>					
	OXIDISING*	POISONOUS	HAZARD TO HEALTH	HARMFUL	HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT
<p><b>FIGURE 2:</b></p>					<p>Handle all household chemical containers with care. The safety symbols displayed are in accordance with SANS 10228 and the Global Harmonised System.</p>
	EXPLOSIVE	COMPRESSED GAS	FLAMMABLE	CORROSIVE	

WE MAY NOT REALISE HOW MANY HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS ARE IN THE PRODUCTS THAT WE USE DAILY. SHOULD SPILLAGE OCCUR OR THE HOUSEHOLDER BE CONCERNED ABOUT HANDLING THE PRODUCT: READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.

### EXAMPLES OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

PRODUCT TYPE	POSSIBLE CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS	RISK
Air fresheners 	Perfumes, anti-microbial agents	Irritant
All-purpose cleaners 	Ammonia, detergent	Corrosive
Ammonia liquids 	Ammonia	Corrosive
Bleaches 	Sodium hypochlorite	Corrosive, oxidising agent
Bath soaps & cleaners 	Soap, shampoo, deodoriser	Irritant
Drain cleaners 	Caustic soda, sodium hypochlorite	Corrosive
Detergents 	Surfactants and phosphates	Irritant
Disinfectants 	Aromatic oils, sodium hypochlorite, phenols, quaternary ammonium products	Corrosive, oxidising agent
Carpet shampoos & upholstery cleaners 	Colour brighteners, anti-soil agents, defoaming silicon emulsions, wetting agents, surfactants	Irritant
Furniture & floor polishes 	Water-repellent silicone fluids, crystalline wax, hydrocarbon emulsifiers, fragrances	Irritant, flammable
Metal cleaners 	Abrasive polishing agents such as clay, surfactants, anti-oxidants, organic oxalic and/or citric acid or sulphuric acid	Corrosive, irritant
Oven cleaners 	Strong alkalis such as sodium hydroxide, surfactants and/or alkali salts	Corrosive
Surfactants 	Petroleum or vegetable-based products	Flammable, irritant
Spot & stain removers 	Solvents, chlorine bleach, phosphate	Flammable, oxidising agent
Window cleaners 	Ammonia, surfactants, solvents, acetic acid (vinegar)	Corrosive

#### TIPS ON THE HANDLING OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS & CLEANING CHEMICALS:

- Do not pour it down the drain because it may be corrosive
- Keep out of reach of children
- Read the product labels prior to use and disposal
- Keep products in their original containers
- Do not store flammable gases and flammable liquids near each other
- Store products separately - do not store acid and alkali products near each other
- Do not mix different brands of cleaning chemicals with each other since they may be highly reactive or react violently



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

For more information contact: 0860 103 089 or go to [www.capetown.gov.za/solidwaste](http://www.capetown.gov.za/solidwaste)

PLEASE NOTE: This leaflet is also available in Afrikaans and Xhosa on request.  
Hierdie pamflet is ook op versoek in Afrikaans en Xhosa beskikbaar.  
Esi sibhengezo siyafumaneka nangesiBhulu nesiXhosa xa siceliwe.