Green Chemistry

eSafetyLine

Green Chemistry at Home

It is important to choose green chemicals at the jobsite, it is equally important to choose this type of product for use at home. Too often we don't realize just how harsh many products such as cleaners, pesticide, solvents, vinyl flooring, carpeting and foam cushions, are that we use in our home around our children and pets. This is made more difficult because there are also dangerous chemicals present in our water, air and food. Unfortunately many of these chemicals have been found in blood, urine and breast milk.

Many dangerous chemicals are legal to use in homes even though they have been long known to be harmful to the immune, reproductive and nervous systems. Babies, young children and the elderly have been found to be at particular risk from exposure. Some examples are:

- Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR's) - These are commonly used flame retardants in carpets, electronics, furniture padding and mattresses. This class of chemical is toxic and accumulates in the tissues of living things. They can disrupt the hormone and reproductive systems.

- Perfluorinated Chemicals- This classes of chemicals are used in floor polishes, denture cleaners, shampoos, herbicides, insecticides and adhesives as well as surface treatment of clothing and carpets. They have been found to cause cancer and disrupt the reproductive system.

- Phthalates- Phthalates are used in flexible PVC plastic, many times referred to as vinyl. They are also used in nail polishes, hair sprays and as solvents and in perfumes. They are also used in the coating of some medications. Phthalates can be toxic to the reproductive system and are linked to increased incidences of childhood asthma.

This is a partial list but it should make clear that there are dangerous chemicals in many of the products we bring into and use in our homes every day. It is impossible to remove ALL dangerous chemicals from our lives but it can help to try and minimize their use. There are many safer, greener alternatives that are just as effective as their more dangerous counterparts and choosing them may help keep your family safer and the planet a better place to live.

Discussion Questions

Where have dangerous chemicals been found in humans?

Why bother choosing green products?

MEETING / TRAINING
ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____ _____ **SAFETY MEETING**

JOB/DEPT: _____ _____ **SAFETY TRAINING**

DATE: ____/____/_____ **TIME:** _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

_____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

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_____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

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_____

_____ _____/_____/_____

Supervisor's Signature **Date**

_____ _____/_____/_____

Safety Coordinator's Signature **Date**