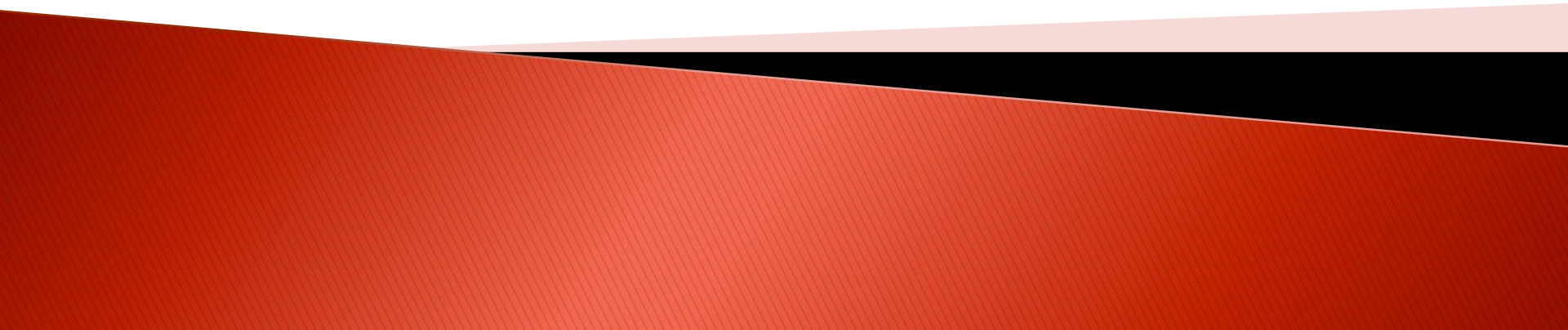


Useful Properties of Substances, their Dangers, and Less-Harmful Alternatives



Useful, but Dangerous Substances

- ▶ Many of the substances used at home or at work have properties that make them both beneficial and dangerous.
- ▶ For example, many cleaning agents have chlorine in them which has strong disinfecting properties and tremendous bleaching ability.
- ▶ However, the term “disinfectant” really means “poisonous”.
- ▶ That is why many products sold for home use have hazard symbols and safety warnings on their packaging.

Safety Symbols and Warnings

The PICTURE tells you the TYPE of danger



EXPLOSIVE The container can explode if heated or punctured. Flying pieces of metal or plastic from the container can cause serious injury, especially to eyes.



CORROSIVE The product can burn your skin or eyes. If swallowed, it will damage your throat and stomach.



FLAMMABLE The product or its fumes will catch fire easily if it is near heat, flames or sparks. Rags used with this product may begin to burn on their own.



POISON If you swallow, lick, or in some cases, breathe in the chemical, you could become very sick or die.



← symbol

signal word →

EXPLOSIVE



CAUTION means temporary injury may be frequent. Death may occur with extreme exposure.

DANGER means may cause temporary or permanent injury or death.

EXTREME DANGER means exposure to very low quantities may cause death or temporary or permanent injury.

READ THE LABELS EVERY TIME AND STAY SAFE

There are two frames used around the symbols:

This frame means that the container is dangerous.



This frame means that the contents inside the container are dangerous.



The back or side label of regulated containers will always have some type of bordered area. Inside the border, you will find safety instructions, the words **FIRST AID TREATMENT** along with instructions in case of injury and a list of harmful substances in the product.

Avoid contact with eyes. Avoid inhalation.

FIRST AID TREATMENT

This product contains ammonia.

If splashed in eyes or on skin, flush thoroughly with water.


If swallowed, drink large amounts of water. **DO NOT INDUCE**

VOMITING. CALL PHYSICIAN OR POISON CONTROL

CENTRE IMMEDIATELY.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Less-Harmful Alternatives

- ▶ As people become more aware of the hazards of using chemical substances, they are less willing to use the more-hazardous substances.
 - ▶ People look for less-harmful alternatives that are not only safer to humans but for the environment.
 - ▶ Please note that safer-to-use alternatives do not mean the same thing as “safe”. All substances should be treated with care, thought, and respect.
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Less-Harmful Alternative

Traditional Cleaning Product	Safer-to-use Alternative
window cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a mixture of vinegar and water
furniture polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a mixture of white vinegar and vegetable oil
stain remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• baking soda and water paste• hydrogen peroxide (3%) for some kinds of stains
oven cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• borax and vinegar (and lots of vigorous scrubbing)• baking soda (and lots of vigorous scrubbing)
dishwasher detergent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a mixture of baking soda and borax
fabric softener	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• vinegar
toothpaste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• baking soda