

# Using household chemicals safely

We come into contact with chemicals and hazardous substances every day. They can harm us, our whānau and our environment if they are not used with care.

Take extra care with heavy-duty household chemicals like poison, pesticides, and flammable products. Even everyday products like toothpaste and washing up liquid can contain chemicals and hazardous substances and need to be used with care.

Call 111 in an emergency.

Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for medical advice.

Call the National Poisons Centre on 0800 764 766 for poisons advice.

## Always read the label

- The label tells you how much to use, how to apply it, and what it can be used for. It has an ingredients list, and use-by date. There is important safety information, for example, wearing gloves and goggles or what to do in an emergency.

## Use as intended and never mix them together

- Always use the right product for the job and make sure you use the right amount. Read the label.
- Unless the label instructs you to, never mix chemicals.

## Close containers, lock them up, and keep out of reach

- Close containers and clean up spilled contents before you put them away.
- Store high up, in a locked cupboard or cabinet and in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep out of reach of children. Use child-safety locks. Child-resistant packaging is not necessarily child proof.

## Store in original containers

- Keep the product in its original bottle or box. This is important – the safety information you need is on the label and the packaging may be designed so it does not react to the contents inside.
- Never transfer chemicals into food or drink containers. It may be mistaken for food or drink.

## Dispose of according to label instructions

- Read the label. It will tell you if it's safe to put it in your household rubbish, if it needs to go into landfill or be disposed of in a managed way. If you are unsure, contact your council for advice.
- Do not put any flammable, corrosive or poisonous chemicals into your household rubbish.
- Don't pour chemicals directly down the drain.