

Dangers of Chemical Cleaners: Toxic Chemicals in Household Cleaners

You deserve to know what is in the products you are using to clean your home!

Most household cleaners contain toxic chemicals. Ammonia, Formaldehyde, Phthalates, Benzalkonium Chloride, and 2-butoxyethanol, are among them. Oven cleaners are one of the most toxic products people use. They contain lye and ammonia.

The chemical companies spend billions of dollars each year brainwashing us. Ninety-one percent of the population applies 300-million pounds of these poisons annually, often indoors.

The government acknowledges that these cleaning products are hazardous, but regulation only requires labels to indicate if they are: combustible, corrosive, poison, caution, etc. They are not required to expose the full ingredient list.

Below You Will Find Some Very Good Articles on the Toxins in Chemical Cleaners and Things You Can Do To Improve the Health of Your Home Chemical Products and Asthma Hazardous ingredients in common cleaning and maintenance products.

The Dirt on Cleaning Product Companies Disinfectant Overkill Household Cleaning Products:

What Every Woman Should know what's That Smell? Chemicals of Concern Commonly Found in Fragrance Used in Cleaning Products

Toxic Chemicals: The Cost to Our Health

Get Rid of Toxic Dust Build-Up

Go Shoeless in the House

Cleaning for Home Health...The Plain Facts!

The article below is from Dr. Gideon Koren. He is a pediatrician, pharmacologist and toxicologist.

When the air is tested in parts of a house where cleaners are stored, it is measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The meter won't tell you how strong or harmful the chemical particles might be. It will provide clues as to how many particles there are.

'Can always smell the cleaning products'

"You can always smell those cleaners even though they're all tightly sealed."

Everywhere the cleaning products are kept, the readings jump. The average home normally reads about 50 parts per billion.

We asked to have tested three products that are often advertised on television: Pledge, Clorox Wipes and Lysol Disinfecting Spray.

Pledge registered 273 ppb. Anything over 500 could be a problem for people with sensitivities.

The Clorox Wipes came in at more than 1,000 ppb. The Lysol Disinfecting Spray was much higher — around 1,200 parts per million, or 1,000 times higher than the Clorox.

Young children especially vulnerable

Koren says young children are especially vulnerable, partly because of exposure. Everything goes in their mouths and they virtually live on the floor. And young kids are more sensitive because they are still developing the basic body systems: the brain, internal organs, respiratory and immune systems are not fully developed until adolescence.

Koren and his researcher are studying the babies of women who were exposed to chemical solvents in the workplace. They're finding vision problems.

"Vision is one of the functions of the human brain, so it means that these chemicals find themselves through the mum, through the umbilical cord, into the baby, into the developing brain, and damaging functions there, and the baby is born already with a problem," Koren said.

Dr. Virginia Salares specialized in indoor air quality. We asked her what's in some of the products being marketed to young families. One product we looked at — Lysol Anti-bacterial Action Spray — lists ethanol 79 per cent. Not just any ethanol, Salares, says. It's denatured ethanol.

Salares has put together a book for us, full of data a sheet which lists the hazards of specific chemicals in the workplace. Here's what she discovered about denatured ethanol:

"May cause irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes, may cause central nervous system depression if inhaled or ingested."

There's also alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride — a pesticide.

The ads suggest you can spray this every day, where kids are playing. Salares says that's something parents should think about.

"Do they want to spray the air people are breathing? Or that kids with toys or surfaces that children are touching, do they want them sprayed?"

Clorox Disinfecting Wipes lists two ingredients: dimethyl benzyl ammonia chloride .145 per cent and dimethyl ethyl benzyl ammonia chloride. Again, more pesticides.

If you can't pronounce it, should you use it?

"If you find that it has ingredients, which is a chemical you can't even pronounce, you don't know what it is, you don't know how it can affect you. I think it's about time you think, should I be using this?" Salares said.

The other product we looked at was Pledge. It doesn't list any ingredients at all. But Salares has looked into it.

"It has silicones...and it has butane gas...and propane."

And in glass cleaners?

"Some of them have what are called glycol ethers. And there's concern over these products for workers who have been exposed occupationally. They have been seeing reproductive effects. In the semi-conductor industry they are being phased out,"