



Lesson Plan: Household Hazardous Products-What are they and where can they be found?

Adapted from the MPCA Household Hazardous Waste Learning Trunk Lesson Plans – www.pca.state.mn.us

Goal: To learn how to identify household hazardous products and to learn where they can be found around the home.

Assessment: Students will be able to identify at least 3 products that are household hazardous waste and at least 3 locations where they can be found in the home.

Age Group: Grades 4-5

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials: Create or purchase a poster that shows a cross section of a house, including garage; several magazines and/or advertisements with pictures of different types of chemicals; tape or putty.

Vocabulary

Environment- The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives; Air, Water, Land

Household Hazardous Product- Any product that can be harmful to our health or the environment when used, stored or thrown away improperly.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - A Household Hazardous Product that is no longer usable or wanted.

Signal Words- Words on a product's label which indicate the degree of hazard (how toxic or hazardous a product can be). The 4 signal words are *caution, warning, danger and poison*.

Background Information for Teachers

- A household hazardous product is a chemical product that is used in and around the home.
- A household hazardous waste is a chemical that is no longer usable or not intended to be used.
- To distinguish household hazardous products from other products used in and around your home, read the label. A household hazardous product has one or more of these words (known as signal words) on the label: *caution, warning, danger or poison*. Other words include flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic.

- Household hazardous products can commonly be found in a variety of places around the home, including:
 - The kitchen (under the sink)
 - Laundry area
 - Bathrooms (medicine cabinets, cupboards)
 - Basement and storage areas
 - Hobby or craft areas

Activity

*Display laminated house cross section picture on the board.

- Ask students where household hazardous products might be found or used in and around the house. Ask students to name a location and give an example (e.g. a bathroom may have medicines or cleaners).
- Have students look through magazines and cut out 3-5 pictures of different types of household hazardous products. Give each student some tape or putty for them to stick on the back of each picture.
- Students take turns sticking their pictures of household hazardous products onto appropriate places in and around the home on the picture. Teacher leads discussion: “Is this the only place where the product is found?” and “Is this the safest place to find the product?”
- Discuss with the students the possible hazards if household hazardous products are not used or stored properly. Ask them what they would do to keep household hazardous products out reach of small children. For example, if storage cabinets are not locked, small children could open the products and be poisoned or burned.

Minnesota Teaching Standards

4th Grade

Language Arts: 4.2.7.7, 4.8.1.1

5th Grade

Science: 5.3.4.1.3, 5.4.4.1.1