

# Cleaning Products & Disinfectants



## MICHIGAN POISON & DRUG INFORMATION CENTER WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



### Q: Is it safe to use any cleaning product on all surfaces?

**A:** No. Some cleaning products can damage the surfaces intended to be cleaned. Always read the directions and precautions before using all cleaning and disinfecting products.

*(Never use toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, or industrial cleaning products on surfaces in your home.)*

### Q: What is the difference between sanitizing, cleaning, and disinfecting?

- A:**
- Cleaning removes dirt, dust, crumbs, and germs from surfaces or objects.
  - Disinfecting uses chemicals (disinfectants) to kill germs on surfaces and objects. ...
  - Sanitizing could be done by either cleaning, disinfecting, or both.

### Q: Does mixing products make cleaning more effective?

**A:** Mixing cleaning or disinfecting products does not make them work better and can lead to the creation of poisonous vapors.

### Q: Can I use different products at different times on the same surface?

**A:** If you must clean any surface with another product, make sure the surface has been rinsed well and the room aired out and ventilated well. Like mixing products, vapors from each product can mix to create toxic gases.

### Q: What should I do to prevent chemical irritation and burns?

**A:** Make sure rooms are ventilated well before cleaning. Wear protective cleaning gloves, use goggles, and a facemask to protect skin, eyes, and your airway.



### Q: What if I get cleaning products on my skin, in my eyes, or if I get sick from fumes?

**A:** Skin Exposure:

- Rinse well.
- Call the Poison Help Hotline if the skin is red or irritated.
- If blisters, discoloration, or pain develop seek medical care. (These symptoms are not common with household cleaning or disinfecting products.)

Eye Exposure:

- Rinse open eye(s) with room temperature water for 15-20 minutes.
- If vision difficulty, pain, or persistent blurred vision seek medical care immediately.
- Call the Poison Help Hotline for helpful advice on childhood exposures and follow-up care recommendations.

Respiratory Exposure

- Get fresh air.
- If difficulty breathing call 911 or seek medical care immediately.
- If throat or nose irritation only, call the Poison Help Hotline for advice and follow-up care.

**POISON HELP HOTLINE**

**1-800-222-1222**

Available 24/7/365

Free, Confidential, Non-judgmental, & Expert Advice



**Store all cleaning and disinfecting products out of sight and reach of children.**