

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

Cleaning and Disinfecting for Households

- From January to March of 2020, Poison Control Centers reported a 20% increase in calls compared to the same time in 2019. The breakdown included 28,158 calls related to cleaners and 17,392 reports linked to disinfectants.
- Exposure among children under the age of five “consistently represented” a larger percentage of total calls.



As we are all doing our part to properly clean and sanitize within our homes, we must remember that there are certain cleaning chemicals that should never be mixed. Certain products, which are safe when used alone, can sometimes cause hazardous vapors or other chemical reactions when mixed with other products.



Remember, if you suspect that you or someone you know has been poisoned, immediately call the toll-free Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222), which connects you to your local Poison Control Center. This expert can give you advice on first aid and may save a family member's life.



Common cleaning chemicals that should never be mixed:

- **Bleach + Vinegar:** Together they produce chlorine gas, which even at low levels, can cause coughing, breathing problems, and burning, watery eyes.
- **Bleach + Ammonia:** This combination produces a toxic gas known as chloramine which can cause shortness of breath and chest pain.
- **Baking Soda + Vinegar:** Mixing these two together gives you mostly water and sodium acetate. If stored in a closed container the mixture could explode.
- **Bleach + Rubbing Alcohol:** This mixture produces the toxic chemical known as chloroform. Inhaling chloroform can significantly reduce your mobility, which can create challenges when attempting to locate fresh air.
- **Lysol + Bleach:** Most Lysol cleaners contain acids and alcohols which can form toxic chemicals when mixed with bleach.
- **Two different drain cleaners:** Depending on the brand and the type of drain cleaner, ingredients may vary. Different drain cleaners can potentially react and produce toxic vapors.



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POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222