



**Subject:** Household Hazardous Waste

**Lesson:** Hazardous House of Horrors

**Standards Addressed:** SCI.K.1.1, SCI.K.1.2, SS.K.3.7, SCI.1.1.1, SS.1.2.4, SS.1.3.9, SCI.2.4.2

**Objectives:** To teach students what household hazardous waste is, how to identify it and safe handling/disposal of these products. Many accidental poisonings and pollution come from items that we use every day. These are called Household Hazardous Waste or Household Hazardous Materials. It is important to know how to identify, use and store them as well as how to dispose of them properly when we no longer need them.

**Materials Needed:** Dollhouse, furniture and props for doll house, label cards, toxic/non-toxic picture cards, and labeled bags (Toxic and Non-toxic). (see the extra materials at the end of this lesson plan)

### **Steps:**

**Preparation:** Print out pictures of different household items. You will need approximately 60 pictures. Be sure to include some items that are toxic and some that are non-toxic. Cut them down to smaller sizes and laminate the pictures. Gather two paper grocery bags and label one “toxic” and one “non-toxic”. In preparing the room, place the dollhouse on a table in the front of the room along with some examples of empty and clean HHW containers. These containers will be a great visual aid for some of the labels and products you are discussing. Place the bags at the front of the room and keep the cards easily accessible to be passed out during the program.

**Pre-activity questions:** Begin the activity by asking:

**“What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?”**

HHW is a category of materials that are used and disposed of by households instead of businesses and that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment.

**“Where would you find Household Hazardous Waste at your home?”**

HHW can be found in many places, one of the most common is under the kitchen sink. Bathrooms and garages are also places where HHW can be found. These are all places where people store chemicals.

**“Where should Household Hazardous Waste products be kept in your home?”**

HHW products should always be stored in their original containers or if not in original containers, clearly labeled. Containers should be unbroken and child-proof. They should also be stored in hard to reach places so that children do not have access to them.

**Directions/Procedure:**

Intro – Hold up a bottle of cleaner... Is it hazardous? What does that mean? Hazardous means dangerous. It could be bad for you, animals or resources outside like creeks, ponds, rivers, soil or air.

**How do you know if something is dangerous?**

LOOKING - Do you see a sign or a word that would tell you it's dangerous? SHOW POISON SYMBOL AND/OR STOP SIGN. Show students and explain the words that are found on a product's label such as Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable.

**Why is it important to read labels and to be able to recognize and understand these words?**

SMELLS BAD - You should never put something up to your nose and smell it if you don't know what it is. But, if you smell something yucky from far away, it could be something hazardous. Sometimes hazardous things smell good too, so if you don't know what something is don't smell it and ask a parent for help.

FEELS- You should not feel something if you don't know what it is.

LISTEN- Maybe Mom and Dad have told you about some things in your house that might be hazardous. These are all very good ways to know if something in your house might be hazardous.

**TEACH POEM –**

*"IT MAY LOOK PRETTY, IT MAY SMELL GOOD. BUT BEFORE I TOUCH IT, I'LL ASK IF I SHOULD".*  
(adapted by Indiana Poison Control Center)

Hazardous things in our houses are things that could make people, animals, or the environment sick. So it is very important that we make sure these types of items are kept up high (out of the reach of students) and in locked cabinets.

We are going to pretend we live in this house/visit this house and we are going to see if this house has anything in it that might be Hazardous.

**GO THROUGH EACH ROOM – SHOW EXAMPLES OF CONTAINERS FOUND IN EACH ROOM.**

There are 5 ways that hazardous stuff can get into your body –

Drinking it, eating it, breathing it, touching it, or getting them into your eye or a cut, etc.

**Did you see some examples of things in the house that could have gotten into a family member's body any of these ways?**

## MATCHING GAME –

Give each student something that they would find at home. They need to decide...Is it yucky or not yucky. – HAVE TWO BAGS – ONE MARKED WITH A SKULL AND CROSSBONES AND ONE MARKED WITH A HAPPY FACE.

**Which bag is for YUCKY stuff (stuff that is toxic)?**

How do you know?

**Which bag is for NON-YUCKY stuff (stuff that is non-toxic)?**

How do you know?

**What should you do if you don't know if your item is YUCKY?**

Ask an Adult! Remember the poem?

*Go through the answers*

## TEACH THE SONG:

TO THE TUNE OF 3 BLIND MICE (adapted by Indiana Poison Control Center)

*“We ask first, we ask first*

*What we may taste*

*What we may touch”*

*“When something looks like it's good to chew*

*And may even smell like it's yummy too*

*it could be a poison, so here's what we do...*

*We ask first, we ask first”*

## **Resources:**

- Indiana Poison Control Center - <http://iuhealth.org/methodist/poisoning/>
- Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Taskforce - [www.indianahhw.org/educators-toolkit](http://www.indianahhw.org/educators-toolkit)

\*\*See Appendix A for pictures of Household Items

**Follow Up Activity:** At the end of the program review and summarize the main points of the program - What is household hazardous waste? How can you identify if something is hazardous? What are some common household hazardous waste items at home? Thermometers, thermostats, and compact fluorescent light bulbs all contain mercury. Where should it be kept in your home? How do we dispose of something safely if it is hazardous? Advise students to talk to their parents about calling the local Solid Waste Management District for disposal options for HHW in their area.

Assignment: Provide Household Hazardous Waste worksheets through HHW Taskforce.

Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix A:



