



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

Serving New Jersey Since 1983

Designated regional poison center
for New Jersey by New Jersey
Department of Health and Senior
Services and the American
Association of Poison Control
Centers

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 2007
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Caution against Mixing: Not all Cleaning Products are Compatible

(Newark, NJ)- Mixing chlorine bleach and ammonia while house cleaning recently sent 2 residents from different parts of New Jersey to the emergency departments at their local hospitals.

Recent rains and flooding produced the need for extensive repairs and cleanup in many communities. Residents have resorted to using strong chemical agents, some potentially toxic, in this process. The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) cautions residents to be cautious in how they choose and use such cleaning and sanitizing agents.

According to Bruce Ruck, PharmD., of NJPIES, "Read product labels carefully and follow their directions. Cleaning products should **NEVER** be mixed together. To ensure a safe cleanup process, following the tips below."

- ***Good ventilation*** is the key to getting harsh fumes from cleaning products out of the house. Simply opening a window is not enough to eliminate dangerous fumes or odors. You may want to use an exhaust fan to eliminate the fumes and to circulate fresh air into the area you are cleaning.
- ***Read the labels and follow the directions*** on household cleaning products.
- ***DO NOT mix products*** – two products combined can produce toxic results.

If you suspect a poisoning, call the poison control center for immediate treatment advice as well as for prevention information. Call **1-800-222-1222**, trained medical professionals will provide you with the most up to date emergency treatment advice, and will answer any drug or poison information question you may have.

***Remember Help Is Just A Phone Call Away!
Poison Emergency? 1-800-222-1222
Hearing Impaired May Call 1-973-926-8008***

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