

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BBE9682B940C4F2C90732E4D37355DD4-DAGUILLARD,]
Sent: 11/20/2017 8:49:15 PM
To: Susan Vargas; Ex. 6
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: FW: Seeking source for article on safe spring cleaning

Susan, for attribution to “an EPA spokesperson,” please:

Question 1. What are the most common risks associated with use of household cleaning products?

The riskiest thing about using any product in your home is using the product incorrectly. Chemicals in household cleaners are safe when used as directed. Acute effects from cleaners are rare. There are instances where mixing products results in the generation of harmful chemicals. Chronic effects, such as respiratory and dermal issues, are also possible, especially for those working in cleaning professions. It's important to note that some household products that include antimicrobial claims, like sanitizing or disinfecting surfaces, killing germs, controlling bacteria or eliminating mold, are pesticide products regulated by EPA. Since these products control organisms that are invisible to the eye, EPA requires special tests to ensure that they work as claimed. These products can be used safely if the consumer follows the directions on the label.

Question 2. What are the best ways to avoid those risks? Do you recommend any particular safety precautions or equipment? What kinds of precautions should consumers take with regard to mixing household cleaners?

It is important to always read and follow the label directions. Consumer product labels contain valuable use instructions and precautions that can help you keep your family, pets, and community safe.

Consumers should never mix household cleaners. Some chemicals, such as sodium hypochlorite (bleach), are very reactive and should be handled with caution. Bleach mixed with ammonia generates harmful chloramine gas.

Questions 3. Are there products consumers should avoid or be particularly careful with, and are there safer alternatives they can choose instead?

Consumers should use caution around reactive chemicals, and around chemicals with an extreme pH. Lye, for example, has a very low pH and can cause burns on skin and can permanently damage eyes.

EPA has a Safer Choice program that certifies products with ingredients that met certain human and environmental health and safety criteria. Information on EPA's Safer Choice program can be found at: www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products.

Question 4. Are some cleaning products appropriate for use in some areas of the house but not others (food-preparation surfaces, etc.)?

Read the label to learn what a product is meant to do, where to use it and how it should be applied.

Question 5. What common mistakes or misconceptions have you seen with regard to use of household cleaning products?

Some common mistakes are consumers purchasing a product that is not well-suited for the job, using an incorrect amount of product (more is not necessarily better!), and not reading and following the label instructions and precautions.

Regards, R.

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Ex. 6

From: Susan Vargas [Ex. 6]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 3:18 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Seeking source for article on safe spring cleaning

Hello,

I'm writing an article with tips for safe spring cleaning for the National Safety Council's *Family Safety + Health* magazine. I'm especially interested in how consumers can avoid dangerous cleaning products or practices (such as mixing ammonia and bleach, inadequate ventilation, etc.). Given the EPA's Safer Choice program, I'm hoping you might be able to connect me with an appropriate source for a phone interview.

If possible, I'd like to conduct the phone interview by this **Friday, Nov. 17**. I'd be happy to send my questions in advance, and the source would have an opportunity to review his/her quotes before I submit the article.

Thanks,
Susan

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Susan Vargas-Sheltra
Freelance writer and editor

Ex. 6