During use

- Ensure good ventilation by turning on the exhaust-fan or opening the window during its use.
- Wear gloves or water-proof boots to minimize contact. Household cleaners are intended to clean things other than your hands and feet!!!
- Handle the household cleaners carefully when you are using them. Your children may ingest them when you are focusing on your work.
- **Never mix household products together. It may produce poisonous gas. For example, poisonous chlorine gas can be generated by mixing acid with bleach solution.



After use

- Wash hands properly
- Return the household cleaners to their original place of storage



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*In Hong Kong, there were about 100 cases of poisoning by household product reported per year. Nearly half of the cases were suicidal while the other half were accidental in nature. About 10% of poisoning cases due to household products occurred in young children, and all of them were accidental in nature. Accidental poisoning has involved a large range of household products including bubble bath, silica gel, stainless steel cleaner, etc.



Household cleaners are a mixture of chemicals. They are one of the important sources of household hazard. Negligence and careless handling of household cleaners may cause harm to the user and the family members. Some important advice on their storage and usage is listed below.

(*Data capture from the Accident & Emergency Department of six acute regional hospitals between July 2005 and June 2006 by the The Hong Kong Poison Control Network)

Storage

- Never stock up household cleaners more than you need.
- Keep them in the original containers.
- Store all household cleaners in locked cabinet or shelf.
- Store them away from food and beverages.
- Keep all household cleaners out of reach of children.
- ** Never put them in containers which are originally used to store food and drinks. This is the commonest cause of accidental poison ingestion.