



### FACT

Most homes use insect repellents, fly and insect sprays, weed killers and fertilizers. These chemical agents are available in a variety of forms:

- surface and space aerosol sprays
- liquids
- powders, crystals and pellets
- herbal and organic productions such as eucalyptus and tea tree oil.

Fertilizers, rat poison and weedkillers are usually stored in garages or workshops, but fly sprays and insect repellents are often left within easy reach of children: under sinks, in cupboards or on benches.

**Chemicals may be toxic, flammable or may react violently when mixed.**

### TIPS FOR SAFE CHEMICAL STORAGE AND USE

Keep your home safe! The NSW Fire Brigades recommends this simple safety checklist:

- ✓ **READ THE LABEL** before purchasing any chemical. Understand the correct use and the dangers posed by the chemical.
- ✓ **CHOOSE** the least dangerous product that will do the job, especially if children are present.
- ✓ **LOCK** chemicals in a cabinet out of the reach of children. Where possible,
- ✓ **FOLLOW** the manufacturer's **INSTRUCTIONS**. Handle with extreme **CAUTION**.
- ✓ Use recommended **PROTECTIVE** equipment: gloves, safety goggles, etc. Ensure adequate **VENTILATION**.
- ✓ **SEAL** chemicals in their original containers.
- ✓ **DO NOT REUSE** empty containers or repack product in different containers.
- ✓ **STOP USING IMMEDIATELY** if you notice ANY reaction: skin rash, headache, breathing problems, nausea, eye or nose irritation, etc.
- ✗ **DO NOT** mix chemicals.
- ✗ **DO NOT PREPARE** more chemical than you need for the job.
- ✗ **DO NOT** use chemicals for jobs for which they are not intended.
- ✗ **DO NOT** pour chemicals down the drain, the toilet or the gutter.
- ✗ **DO NOT** use around children.

### ACTION

- Have you **INSPECTED** your chemical storage areas and container seals recently?
- Have you **CONTACTED** your local council to **DISCARD** old and unused chemicals?  
([www.resource.nsw.gov.au](http://www.resource.nsw.gov.au))
- **FOLLOW** first-aid instructions. If skin or eyes are **BURNT**, if chemical has been **SWALLOWED** or fumes **INHALED** – call your doctor, local hospital or an ambulance.
- **REMEMBER** the **POISONS INFORMATION LINE: 13 11 26**.

