

## Chemicals are particularly dangerous for young children due to their natural curiosity and tendency to put things in their mouth.

Each year thousands of children are exposed to chemicals on the farm. The only way to prevent it is to lock up all forms of chemicals. Exposure can happen in a number of ways:

- ▶ Ingestion by eating or swallowing
- ▶ Contact with the skin or eyes
- ▶ Inhaling or breathing it

By teaching children about the dangers of chemical exposure, you will help them understand the importance of avoiding contact. Younger children should be taught to stay away from all items which they are not familiar with and instructed about warning symbols. Older children can be taught the significance of warning symbols, words, colors and the distinctions between the levels of danger.

- ▶ CAUTION - Minor or moderate injury: Yellow
- ▶ WARNING - Possibility of death or serious injury: Orange
- ▶ DANGER - High probability of death or serious injury: Red

It's important to store chemicals in their proper containers. In particular, avoid containers children are familiar with like pop bottles or kitchen containers. Many chemicals look like other nontoxic substances to a child. Gasoline could look like a juice drink or motor oil may look like pancake syrup.

To prevent accidental exposure to chemicals follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Lock chemicals in their original, labeled container
- ▶ Teach kids warning signs and what to avoid
- ▶ Discard all empty chemical containers and accessories properly
- ▶ Remove children and toys from the area when applying chemicals
- ▶ Wash chemical soiled clothing separately
- ▶ Close all containers when not in use, even if only for a moment
- ▶ Farm chemicals are not to be handled by youth

Program Poison Control 1-800-222-1222 into your cell phone. Don't waste time looking it up when you need it.



Chemicals can look like another nontoxic substance. Side by side it's hard to tell which is safe and which is toxic.

