

High Risk Cleaning Products

Be Healthy – Clean Safely #2

By Tom Barron

What cleaning chemicals are the most risk to you?

| <u>Product</u> | <u>Hazardous Ingredients</u> | <u>How These Can Harm You</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Glass Cleaner General Purpose Cleaner Carpet Spot Remover | A solvent called “Butoxyethanol” | Butoxyethanol absorbs through your skin and poisons your blood, liver, & kidneys. Wear gloves when you use cleaners with this ingredient. |
| Toilet Cleaner | Hydrochloric Acid Phosphoric Acid | These acids are very good for removing hard water rings, but they can also blind you in seconds. Wear your gloves and goggles, or better yet change to a milder product (one with Citric Acid – strong lemon juice). |
| Oven Cleaner Heavy Duty Degreaser | Sodium Hydroxide | Oven cleaner in a spray can – very convenient, but also very dangerous. Sodium hydroxide can blind you, and the vapors can harm your lungs. Use it with care - wear gloves & goggles, and provide lots of fresh air. |

Source: <http://www.westp2net.org/janitorial/jp4.htm>

Interested in learning more about cleaning chemical safety? Contact the Janitor Safety Project. This is a public service effort co-sponsored by the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The local contact is Steve Clark at the Community Environmental Council (805) 963-0583.

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