Activity: Safety Scavenger Hunt

Nearly every home contains at least a few hazardous household chemicals, and reading their labels for safety information is important!

You might think first about cleaning products, but those aren’t the only products around the house with important chemical labels. Chemicals are often used in arts and crafts projects and other hobbies or home activities such as animal care, gardening, and lawn care. Go on a scavenger hunt around your house and see what you can find.

Here’s what you’ll need: ✔ large piece of paper ✔ blue, green, and red colored pencils or markers ✔ notebook and pen or pencil

1. Draw a bird’s-eye view of your home on the large paper. This will be your property map. If the buildings have multiple levels, draw each level separately. Here’s an example.

2. Carrying your property map, notebook, and writing supplies, go through all areas of your property and hunt for chemical products.
   - For each label you find that uses the word CAUTION or WARNING, draw a blue star on your property map in the location where you find the product.
   - For each label you find that uses the word DANGER, draw a green star on your property map in the location where you find the product.
   - For each label you find that uses the word POISON, draw a red star on your property map in the location where you find the product.
   - As you’re on your scavenger hunt, keep a list in your notebook of the products you find in each of the three categories (CAUTION or WARNING, DANGER, and POISON). Make a note of where you find these products and their special storage and disposal requirements.

Questions to Consider

What surprises did you discover in your hunt?

What area of your home has the chemicals that are the most dangerous?

Are all of these products stored the same way? Do any of them have special storage or disposal requirements?

Signal words, indicating levels of hazard, are required by law to appear on labels of hazardous products. Approved signal words, from least to most hazardous are CAUTION, WARNING, and DANGER. Where needed, the signal word POISON is used along with DANGER.