

Clorox® plans new formula roll out for March 2013

(extracted from www.bizjournals.com)

Clorox is revamping its 100-year-old name-sake bleach by concentrating the formula to work better in today's high-efficiency washers. The new 64-ounce bottles, of more concentrated bleach, instead of the bulkier 96-ounce bottles, have already been seen on shelves in stores in several states, and will be rolled out on a national level by March.

A key driver in creating the new formula bleach is the high-efficiency washers that have become more commonplace. The machines have a compartment for one-half cup of bleach vs. the three-quarter cup Clorox recommends when pouring from the 96-ounce bottles.

The company is also introducing a gentler, thicker version of Clorox bleach that's easier to pour and another version that comes ready-to-use, with no mixing or dilution needed.

The new formula's pH is 13.0 as compared to the 11.9 pH of regular bleach. While that doesn't seem like a big difference, it means that the new product is at least 10 times more alkaline than the old one because the pH is a logarithmic calculation (base 10). This could cause a big increase in the potential for burns as we would now classify it an alkaline corrosive (pH > 12.5) compared to just an strong irritant.

INSIDE

Clorox Changes Its Formula	1
Carbon Monoxide	1
Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control	2
Fireplace Safety	3
Herbal Products & Prescription Medications	3
Winter Hazard Reminders	4
Answers to Quiz.....	4

Like us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Indiana-Poison-Center/297875686897662>

Winter Safety

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Warm coats, gloves and footwear are a priority if you brave the outdoors, but what about cold weather priorities for indoors? Carbon monoxide - odorless, colorless and tasteless - is a deadly hazard all year round, but it becomes a particular threat during cold weather, when space heaters, furnaces and stoves become the must-have appliances for households in colder climates. All fuel-burning equipment and appliances create a risk for carbon monoxide, including water heaters, wood and gas fireplaces, generators and automobile engines.

In its mildest form, carbon monoxide poisoning can feel a little like the flu – causing headaches, dizziness, exhaustion, confusion, fainting and vomiting. At its worst, exposure can be fatal.

According to the CDC, there are approximately 6832 calls annually to US poison centers regarding unintentional, non-fire related CO poisonings. Indiana State Department of Health reports that, each year, more than 500 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, and more than 2,000 commit suicide by intentional CO poisoning.

The **Indiana Poison Center** offers these tips for avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning during the coldest months of the year.

- Never use a charcoal or gas grill inside a house, garage, closed-in porch or tent.
- Don't burn charcoal in fireplaces indoors.
- Have your furnace inspected and adjusted before every heating season.
- **Never** use a gas stove or oven to heat the house.
- **Never** leave a car running inside a garage, even if the garage door is open.

- When using an indoor fireplace to burn wood or gas logs, make sure the flue is open and the chimney isn't blocked. Have your chimney, fireplace, wood stoves and flues inspected before every heating season.
- Don't use a kerosene heater or gas logs for heat unless you have a working carbon monoxide alarm.
- **Never** use a generator inside your home – not even in the basement, garage or porch. Keep it outside, far away from the house.

What should I do if the alarm on my CO detector goes off?

Always take your alarm seriously and take immediate action:

- Account for everyone in the house, including pets - move them to fresh air.
- Don't air out the house – doing so will make it difficult to find the source of CO.
- If anyone has symptoms -- call 911 immediately if unconscious, seizing or not breathing, otherwise call the Indiana Poison Center. If everyone is free of symptoms, call the fire department or gas company for assistance.

The best way to prevent CO poisoning is to have your heating and water system inspected annually by a qualified contractor. The vent system and chimneys should be inspected, repaired or replaced as necessary every year.

Toxic Trivia

Test your poison knowledge with our 5 tricky

Answers are

on page 4 - good luck!



TOXIC TRIVIA

Concerns about Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control

(extracted from CDC Health Advisory HAN-0336-2012-11-27-ADV-N)

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alerting the public to an emerging national concern regarding misuse of pesticides to treat infestations of bedbugs and other indoor insects

From January 2006-December 2010, the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) reported 169 calls to their hotline where residents, homeowners, or pesticide applicators sprayed pesticides indoors to treat bedbugs. These cases involved pesticides that were misapplied, not intended for indoor use, or legally banned from use. Of those, 129 resulted in mild or serious health effects (including one death) for persons living in affected residences.

ATSDR warns that outdoor pesticides should not be used indoor under any circumstances. Homeowners and applicators should always carefully read the product label to make sure that:

- it has an EPA registration number
- it is intended for indoor use
- it is effective against bed bugs (the label should say it is meant to be used to treat your home for bed bugs) and
- you know how to properly mix the products (if a concentrate) and where and how to apply it safely within the home.

It is particularly dangerous to allow children to reoccupy the a home that has had a recent pesticide treatment where surfaces are still wet, or where they can come in direct contact with pesticide

1. True or False: Once a poisonous snake is dead, it can no longer harm you.

dusts. Children can put objects that have pesticide residues on them in their mouths, and generally put their hands in their mouths and touch their faces more than adults. They also breathe a greater volume of air per body weight than adults. Thus, the behavior and physical characteristics of children can lead to higher exposures than adults.

Exposed animals may have the same health effects as people. Illness in pets is usually the first warning that a pesticide has been misused or over applied. Due to their small body weight, exposed pets tend to show poisoning signs rather quickly.

Preventing Exposure to Pesticides

1. Make sure you are treating the right pest. Before using any pesticides, confirm that your infestation is actually from bed bugs. Some products are specific to an insect, and won't work if used on any other insect.
2. Do not use pesticides indoors if they are intended for outdoor use. Using outdoor pesticides in doors can harm your family's health, contaminate your home, which can result in loss of your belongings, and cost thousands of dollars to clean up in order to make your home safe to reoccupy.
3. Use a pest control expert if you hire someone to treat your home for a pest problem. A professional should thoroughly inspect your residence and provide instructions for preparation and cleaning. When you hire someone, make sure they are currently licensed and certified to apply pesticides. Ask to see the certification, for the brand name of the pesticide and the name of its active ingredient (in the event that someone gets sick)
4. If you purchase over-the-counter pesticide products to apply yourself, be sure the product is in unopened, original pesticide containers and that the containers are labeled and have an EPA registration number

5. ***ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PRODUCT LABEL.***

If you feel you have been overexposed to a pesticide or feel sick after a pesticide has been used in your home, consult your doctor or call the Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) ***immediately.***

Treating Bed Bugs Safely

Like lice, bedbugs are best treated using a combination of practices, such as inspection, monitoring, reducing clutter, using physical barriers and carefully applying pesticides, when and if needed. This is known as "integrated pest management" (IPM). This approach includes:

- checking luggage and clothes when returning from a trip or buying second hand clothing, mattresses or furniture.
- thoroughly inspecting infested areas and the surrounding living space
- reducing clutter where bugs can hide
- installing encasements on box springs, mattresses and pillows, and using interceptors under bed posts and furniture legs.
- aggressively cleaning infested areas and clothing, in conjunction with professional heat/steam or cold treatments of baseboards and belongings;
- carefully using pesticides approved for indoor use on bed bugs (a list of EPA approved pesticides available at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/bedbug>) or hiring a pest management professional.

There is no federal certification program for IPM pest control professionals, but two non-profits do offer certification programs (<http://greenshieldcertified.org/> or <http://www.certifiedgreenpro.org/>). This information is being provided solely to assist you and is not an endorsement or recommendation by the CDC or Indiana Poison Center of any pest control individual or company.

2. Blackjack disease is a skin condition sometimes found in card players who are in prolonged contact with the green felt on card tables. Which toxic substance in the material causes this?

Fireplace safety

Winter is here and the cold North wind is blowing. You build a warm, cozy fire. Here are some tips to building a safer fire:

- **Keep the damper open well after the fire has gone out to avoid smoke coming back into the house.**
- **Avoid chimney fires by burning well-aged, dry wood.**
- **Decrease the amount of smoke by building smaller, faster-burning fires.**
- **Don't let the ashes build up more than an inch. Ash build up restricts the air supply and causes more smoke.**
- **Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach of the fireplace.**
- **Check your chimney yearly to make sure it is free from blockages that could prevent gasses and smoke from venting properly.**
- **Do not use liquid fire starters they can make it dangerous to light a match and rapidly ignite.**



3. Which custom, used at culinary festivities today, is thought to have its roots in a polite mannerism to assure one's companion that no poison had been mixed in his cup?

Herbal Products and Prescription Medications: a Mix That Could Cause Problems

Herbal supplements are readily available these days. Although these natural products may seem safe to take, they could cause problems when combined with some prescription medications. **Anyone taking prescription medication should always check with their doctor or pharmacist before taking any of these products.**

Even something as simple as a fruit can cause problems. Did you know that whole grapefruit or grapefruit juice can interact with some medications? Some of these types of drug include:

4. Which country is home to the 9 most deadliest arachnids and the 10 most deadliest snakes?

- Drugs used to treat high blood pressure
- "Statin" drugs used to lower cholesterol
- Some anti-anxiety and antihistamine medications
- Protease inhibitors used to treat HIV/AIDS
- Immunosuppressant drugs used after transplant surgery

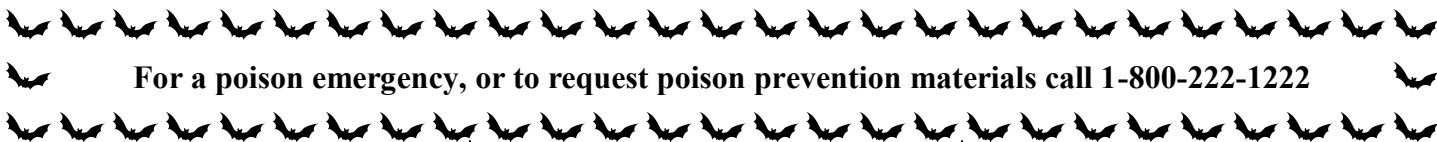
If you are taking medication, ask your pharmacist for the latest information before eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice.

If you take these:

- Aloe + digoxin heart medicine
- Aloe + steroids or blood pressure meds
- Beta-Carotene + cigarette smoking
- Beta-Carotene + cigarette smoking
- Capsicum + blood-thinners
- Cat's Claw + blood pressure meds
- Cat's Claw + immunosuppressants
- Chondroitin + blood-thinners
- Echinacea + immunosuppressants .
- Ephedra + digoxin heart medicine
- Ephedra + Diabetes meds
- Fish oils + blood thinners
- Garlic pills + blood-thinners, aspirin
- Garlic pills + Diabetes medicines
- Garlic pills + cyclosporine
- Ginkgo Biloba + blood-thinners

This could happen:

- Lower potassium
- Lower potassium
- Higher cancer risk
- High heart attack risk
- Risk of bleeding
- Low blood pressure
- Reduced effectiveness
- Risk of bleeding
- Reduced effectiveness
- Irregular heartbeat
- Higher blood sugar
- Risk of bleeding
- Risk of bleeding
- Very low blood sugar
- Organ rejection
- Risk of bleeding



For a poison emergency, or to request poison prevention materials call 1-800-222-1222

If you have any kind of medication problem: Call 1-800-222-1222 to talk to a trained poison expert at the Indiana Poison Center. The call and advice are *free* and the poison center is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Websites to search for medication interactions:

www.druginteractioncenter.org

(grapefruit interactions)

<http://www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs>

http://my.webmd.com/medical_information/drug_and_herb

<http://nccam.nih.gov/health/>

Winter Hazard Reminders

Antifreeze and Windshield Wiper Fluid are attractive to small children and pets because of its sweet taste. Just one lick can lead to severe illness. Wiper fluid with antifreeze contains methanol, which is the alcohol capable of causing blindness. When filling your car, be aware of children and pets. Be sure to clean any liquid that may have spilled, rinse container with water and discard according

Ice Melt Chemicals are designed to melt ice and/or snow on sidewalks and roadways. They may contain sodium chloride (salt), calcium salts, potassium, magnesium or other chemicals which can be harmful if swallowed. As with all chemicals, keep locked up and out of sight and reach of children.

Lamp Oil is a liquid fuel composed of hydro carbons. Young children may be attracted to bright colors and sweet smells. When swallowed, hydrocarbons may cause nausea and vomiting, and may irritate skin upon contact. Hydrocarbons are most dangerous if they get into the lungs, which may cause coughing, breathing problems, or swelling and fluid build up in the lungs and airways. Permanent lung damage, coma or death may follow.

Articles from this issue of Toxic Trivia may be reproduced in newsletters, etc, as long as:

- *No changes are made in any way to the original article*
- *The article is credited to IPC*

Contact Deirdre George Davis at 317-962-9248 if you have questions regarding duplication of information.

WHAT'S NEW

The Indiana Poison Center is glad to welcome **Deirdre George Davis** as our new Health Educator. Deirdre has a Masters Degree in Public Health, with a concentration in Maternal & Child Health.



Welcome!

5. Though thought to be responsible for the deaths of over 200 of his patients, Dr. Harold Shipman was found guilty for 15 murders. His poison of choice was diamorphine. What is the "street name" for this drug?

- Answers to the Quiz**
1. False - The jaw muscles may open and close, reflexively for up to 60 minutes, potentially injecting venom into unsuspecting handlers
 2. Chromium. Symptoms of this form of contact dermatitis include red rash, itching, swelling and usually blisters
 3. The practice of toasting and drinking glasses
 4. Australia
 5. Heroin