

SAFETY TALKS



A Quarterly Publication Presented by:
The Environmental Health & Safety Office



Spring Cleaning the Safe Way

Chores like re-organizing closets and tackling a thorough spring cleaning can put families at even greater risk for falls and poisoning – the two leading causes of home injury in America. The Home Safety Council urges families to keep safe practices top of mind while cleaning up and cleaning out your home, garage and yard.

- When cleaning out closets or re-organizing, always keep stairs, steps, landings and all floors clear.
- Carry loads you can see over, and keep one hand free to hold banisters and railings.
- Five gallon buckets are often used while cleaning and present a serious drowning danger to young children. Never leave a bucket or any standing water unattended and store buckets empty and upside-down.
- Follow safety recommendations when using harsh products, such as wearing gloves and masks. Do not mix products together because their contents could react with dangerous results.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning solvent and never use or store gasoline in your home, even in tiny quantities.
- When cleaning out cabinets, separate dangerous products and medications and lock them up, out of reach of young children.
- Remember to reduce clutter and safely tuck away telephone and electrical cords out of walkways. In homes with children, make sure toys and other items are always safely put away when not in use.
- If you need to climb, use a stepladder or ladder.

(Source: http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sg_kitchen_w003.aspx)

Lawn & Garden Safety

As the weather becomes warmer and days are longer, we spend as much time as we can outdoors enjoying our backyards. Many of us tackle do-it-yourself projects and others are happy just being outside. But, to be safe, it is important to remember the following tips when frolicking in the yard, especially if you have children:

- Keep children inside the house or well away from the area you are mowing.
- Prepare your lawn by walking over it, checking for broken sticks, stones, toys and anything else that could shoot out from under the mower or damage the blade.
- Before you start your lawn mower for the first time, check to make sure that all guards are in place.
- Don't let people stand or sit anywhere near where you are mowing. Be especially careful to keep small children away.
- Never reach under the mower unless it is turned off and the blade has completely stopped turning.
- Only refuel the mower after it has completely cooled down.
- Store pesticides and herbicides on high shelves or inside locked cabinets, out of the reach of children.
- Wear proper eye protection when using any power tool.
- Don't wear any loose or dangling clothing that could be caught in moving parts.

(Source: http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sg_backyard_w001.aspx)

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We're also on the web:

www.odu.edu/af/ehs

National Electrical Safety Month, May 2005

Here are some checks you can make in your home today to ensure electrical safety:

Outlets

Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.

Cords

Make sure cords are in good condition—not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest any furniture on them.

Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might fall in contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out—even if it's turned off. First turn off the power source at the panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person.

Outdoor Safety

Electric-powered mowers and other tools should not be used in the rain, on wet grass or in wet conditions. Inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. If damaged, stop using it immediately. Repair it or replace it. Always use an extension cord marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools. Remember to unplug all portable power tools when not in use. When using ladders, watch out for overhead wires and power lines.

Circuit Breakers/Fuses

Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size fuse.

For more information pertaining to electrical safety at work or in your own home, check out www.esfi.org/index.php. ESFI's website is full of information about electrical safety for your home, work, and electrical safety for children and senior citizens.

Safety Tip:

Tips to prevent childhood poisonings:

- Store dangerous chemicals in cabinets that are locked or too high to be reached by small children.
- Store vitamins, iron pills, and medicine in locked cabinets. Hide the key.
- Buy products in childproof containers.

For more information pertaining to poisonings, contact The Blue Ridge Poison Center (BRPC) 1-800-222-1222 or visit their website at: <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/brpc/>

Upcoming Events:

Earth Week
April 18-22, 2005

Storm Drain Stenciling
Thursday, April 21st 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Lafayette River Clean-up (Adopt-A-Stream)
Friday, April 22nd 2:00pm - 4:00pm

For more information about these events visit the ODU Volunteer Opportunities website at www.odu.edu/af/ehs/volunteer_odu.html

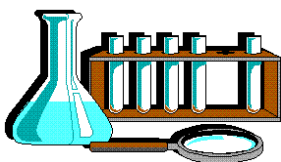
National Safety Month

The National Safety Council has designated the month of June as National Safety Month, an annual observance aimed at increasing public awareness of the dangers Americans face each day on the highways, in homes and communities, from environmental hazards, and in the workplace.

And be sure to join us on June 2nd for our 2nd annual Safety Awareness Fair, located inside Webb Center.

Attention Laboratory Employees!

Have you completed the Laboratory Safety Training Program? If not, contact Doug Alexander at 3-4495 to reserve space in the next session or to schedule a session.



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