

HEALTH EFFECTS OF TRADITIONAL HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

www.environmentaloncology.org

TRADITIONAL PRODUCT	CONTAINS	ENVIRONMENTAL / HEALTH CONCERNS
Cleaners		
Chlorinated cleaners & degreasers	Sodium Hypochlorite D-Limonene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental toxicant can cause skin burns & respiratory complications (<i>including emphysema & bronchitis</i>) • Can react with ozone to form particulates that may affect asthmatics • May also irritate skin, eyes & airways
Commercial cleaners & degreasers	Ammonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritating & corrosive to nose, eyes & airways • Can trigger asthma
Commercial Drain Cleaners	Sodium Hypochlorite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to above
Furniture & Floor Polishes	May contain nitrobenzene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May cause skin discoloration & respiratory difficulties • Associated with cancer & birth defects
Air fresheners		
Fragranced air fresheners	Any of more than 3000 synthetic chemicals, including paradichlorobenzene (<i>a possible reproductive toxin & carcinogen</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those in aerosol form frequently contain petrochemical propellants (<i>butane, isobutane and propane</i>), which can affect the nervous system at high concentrations
Pesticides		
Chlorinated synthetic chemicals used as general pesticides	Permethrin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible carcinogen & endocrine disruptor
Moth balls	Naphthalene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurotoxin & unclassifiable carcinogen



University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Center for Environmental Oncology