

# School Hazardous Waste Survey



## INTRODUCTION

School as an institution can be a laboratory to explore the issue of hazardous waste for the students in an institutional settings. The lesson plan builds upon the learning students had while exploring the hazardous waste in the homes. The lesson plan encourages development of a policy for their school.

### Objectives:

Students will be able to

- identify different products are used at household level which are hazardous in nature.
- undertake a school audit/ survey to understand the generation of hazardous wastes in their respective schools.

**Eco-Schools Steps:** Environmental Review, Curriculum linkages, Inform and Involve, Eco-code

**Curriculum Linkage:** Science/ Environmental Studies/Social Science/School Safety

### Time required/ Duration:

- **Group Assignment:** 45 minutes for the group activity with students for identifying and classifying household hazardous wastes used in different areas within the school.
- **Classroom Session 1:** 45 minutes for group presentations, wrap up session, to develop an Eco-Code and display on the Eco-Schools bulletin board.

### Resources Required:

- Resource 1 (Hazardous waste symbols reference chart - to understand and interpret reading of labels).
- Hazardous products and labels.
- Resource 2 (Hazardous waste table).
- Resource 3 (School Hazardous waste - survey chart).
- Some real products with the hazardous labels for use by the teacher as part of demonstration as well as conclusion.
- Magnifying glass - might be handy to read labels with very small text.
- Writing materials.



# Activity

## Group Assignment

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- Engage students to understand that many chemicals used in the school campus are hazardous in nature.
- Divide students into teams, each group in the school should be assigned to different areas within the school. These teams should look at the following:
  - school gardens
  - school sanitation and hygiene (toilets, water purification and pools)
  - school cafeteria (washing of utensils, storage of food, pest control within the cafeteria)
  - others
- Lead student observations such that students look at appropriate words (danger/ poisonous/ etc); symbols (corrosive, flammable) on the labels of the different products that are used in different areas/ facilities within the school.
- Ask students need to read the warning instructions on these labels and should classify their finding in the Resource 4 (Hazardous waste table).

## Classroom session

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- Ask each group to make a presentation of their findings to the class.
- Ask student to compile their survey data for display on the Eco-Schools bulletin board.
- Eco-Schools team should aim at developing an Eco-code for at least one area in the school and look towards reducing the use of these hazardous chemicals.

### Evaluation:

Ask students to propose a list of products that should be banned from school campus.