

House Cleaning Products Are Poisonous — Beware

Bleaches, paints, furniture polishes, cleansers and disinfectants can and will kill if misused. They are all substances which may be used year 'round, but really come out of hiding during an annual event that takes place in almost every household - Spring Cleaning.

Protect yourself from accidental poisoning with these substances. Be sure containers are well-labeled as to the contents of each. Fumes from paints, solvents and aerosol

products can overcome, suffocate and poison the user by getting into the lungs," reports Jack Ogun, Chief of the Drug, Device and Cosmetic Compliance Section, Bureau of Comprehensive Health Services, Pennsylvania Department of Health. Be sure there is a lot of ventilation in rooms in which they are being used.

Accidental poisoning is one of the greatest causes of medical emergencies involving children, endangering more than two

million every year.

Protect small children from dangerous substances by keeping the products securely locked in cabinets high enough to be out of easy reach. Inexpensive small safety locks are available and should be installed on all cabinets that contain potentially poisonous products.

Keep children out of rooms in which products with strong fumes are being used. "If the fumes both a person of adult size, they will affect

a little person all the more so," Mr Ogun said.

Use caution when disposing of all drugs or harmful substances. Children will think the containers are good playthings if they see them. When buying additional supplies, make sure they have safety closures, even if it takes you a little more time to get the container open.

Mr. Ogun, in urging everyone to learn as much as they can about poison

prevention, said that physicians, nurses, pharmacists and the public libraries are good sources of information on poison prevention.

In cases of suspected poisoning of any kind, contact your physician or the nearest poison treatment center, usually located in the local community hospital. The Poison Control Center number to call in Lancaster County is 299-4546.

When you try to make an impression, that is the impression you make.

Home Office Hints

Be it ever so humble, a home office can mean significant savings at tax time. Items such as rent, electricity, taxes and interest on a mortgage can all be deducted in proportion to their business use.



You can even deduct the cost of decorating your work area, according to Kemp Furniture Industries. Handsome, well-designed chests, wall units and desks are legitimate business expenses—provided, of course, that you purchase them exclusively for business purposes.

Your home office can be part of a room, one entire room, or several rooms; the IRS isn't fussy as long as the space is devoted to business.

Let's say you set aside one room entirely for professional purposes. If your work room represents six percent of your home's total area, you can deduct six percent of the year's costs for heat, light, insurance, and so on.

But if you use the same room only two hours a day for business, it's available for family use during the other 22 hours of the day. In that case, after figuring 6 percent of the year's expenses, you'd multiply that sum by the fraction 2/24 to determine your actual deduction.

Is a home office worth the extra figuring and record-keeping? Definitely! Even if you love your work, you don't want it to become too taxing.

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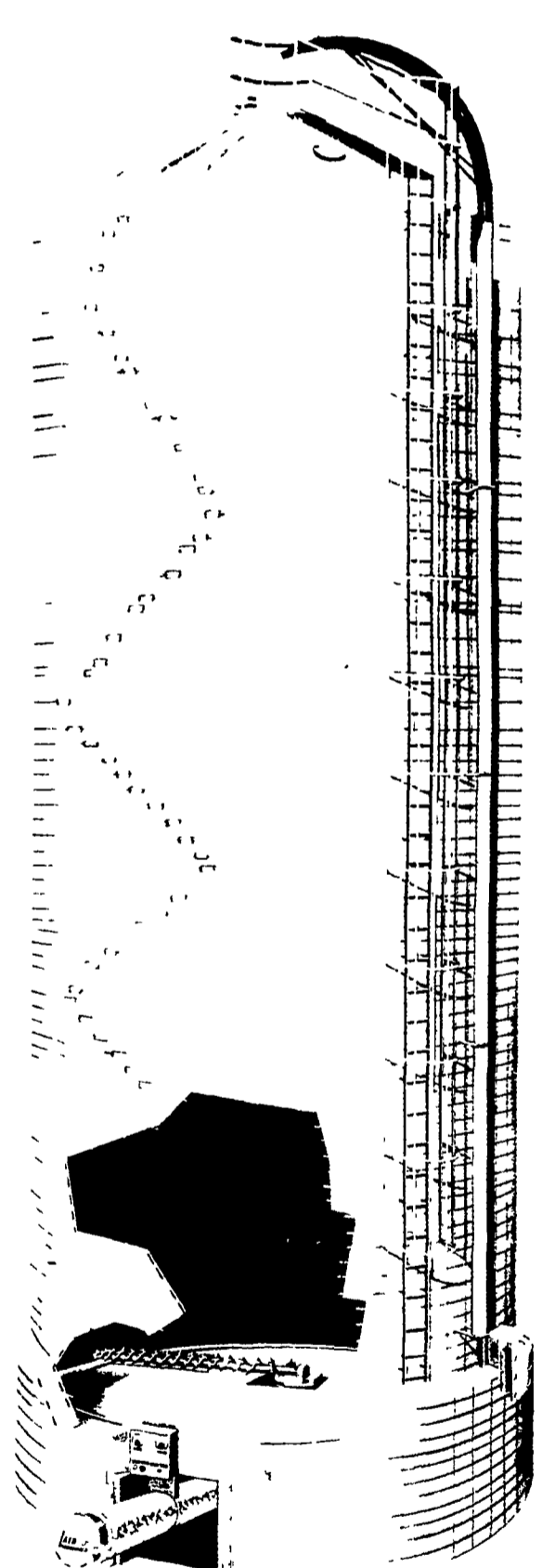
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