

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

CHEMICAL SAFETY



The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Supervision and Prevention of Communicable Diseases;
- Vector Control;
- **Safe handling of Chemical Substances;** and
- Management of Human Remains.

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work & play in safe, healthy environments

STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE CHEMICALS IN THE HOME

You may already know that some common household products contain potentially dangerous chemicals. These products include, among others:

- cleaning agents such as bleaches, dishwasher powders, oven cleaners, drain cleaners and turpentine
- pest control products
- weed killers
- gardening products
- swimming pool chemicals
- liquid petroleum gas

While an adult may know not to swallow these, a child might think they are safe to touch or eat or drink.

You and your family can live safely with these chemicals around your home if you store them safely (away from children) and use them correctly.

LEARN HOW TO STORE CHEMICALS SAFELY AT HOME

Store and use all chemicals according to the instructions on the packaging. Remember, chemicals may be toxic or flammable, and they may create a poisonous gas or liquid when mixed. Below are some safety tips for storing chemicals in your home.

It also is recommended that before applying pesticides or other household chemicals, remove children and their toys, as well as pets, from the area.

Keep children and pets away until the pesticide has dried or as long as is recommended on the label.

SAFETY TIPS FOR STORING CHEMICALS IN YOUR HOME

- Before you buy a product, read the label. Before you use a product, read the label and then follow the instructions for use.
- Try to find the least dangerous product that will do the job, especially if children and pets will be exposed to it.
- Keep chemicals in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children (including children who are good climbers!). If you can, keep liquid chemicals away from (or below) dry chemicals.
- When you use the chemical, follow the instructions. Make sure you have the recommended protective equipment such as gloves, safety goggles and a face mask, and work in a well-ventilated area.
- If you are using chemical cleaners, wash the cleaning rags before you use them again or before throwing them out.
- Keep chemicals in their original packaging, so you can easily identify them.
- Do not use chemicals for anything other than their intended job. When you are finished with a chemical do not pour it down the drain, toilet or gutter.

Some household chemicals must not be thrown into your regular rubbish.

Always contact your local municipality with regards to disposing of different household and hazardous chemicals.

Remember, don't throw anything in the toilet or down a drain. And, if you have empty chemical containers, wrap them before you throw them

ISSUANCE OF LICENSE / PERMIT

In terms of the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No. 15 of 1973), all importers, manufacturers, whole distributors, registered pharmacists, general dealers, farmers, industries and factories, retailers (formal and informal), pest control operators, business premises, schools, laboratories, public and private premises and workplaces must be licensed/permitted on hazardous substances and chemical safety issues where applicable.

All pesticide/chemical poisoning incidents must be reported in terms of pesticide / chemical incident report form as adapted from the Rotterdam Convention and investigated by an EHP.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- All employees or workers must be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) (gloves, boots, aprons and mask) at all times.
- PPEs must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.
- All employees or workers must be trained on hazardous substances and chemical safety issues.
- Procedures and plans must be in place for accidental spillages and leakages.



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