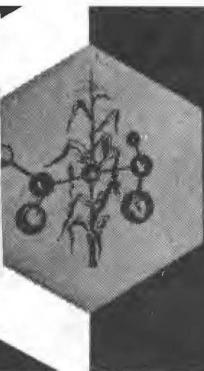


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Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Extension Division

# CHEMICAL-DRUG-PESTICIDE

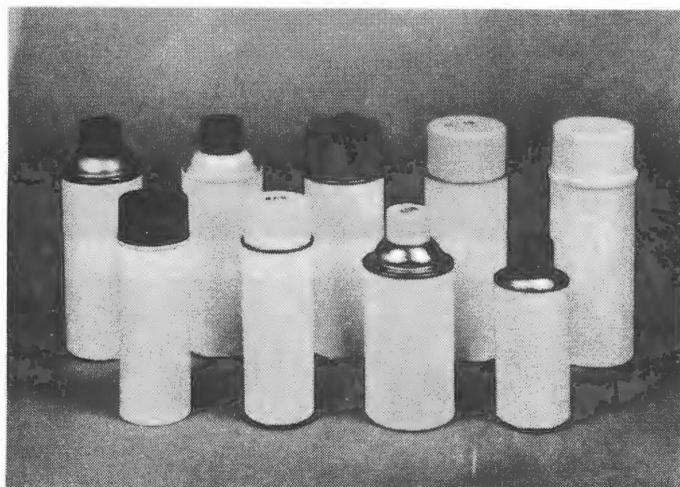
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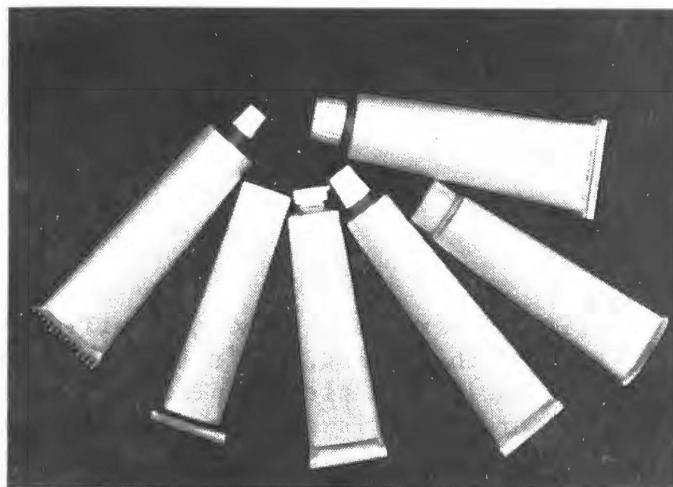
## BEWARE OF LOOK-ALIKES

R. H. Gruenhagen, Extension Specialist  
Chemical, Drug and Pesticide Unit

We're not talking about twins. What we are talking about however, is the great number of chemical, drug and pesticide products in your home which look alike, either in the products themselves, or in the containers in which they are sold. Many distinctive containers are on the market, but the number of colors, sizes and shapes is limited and similarities are bound to exist. We have all heard the admonition to "Read The Label", but let's stop and think for a minute - how many times do we select a household product from the shelf purely on the basis of the size or shape of the container? Sewing machine oil used in place of lighter fluid might produce rather amusing, although frustrating results, but if ant and roach spray was used in place of hair spray net the results could be very serious. Then too - how about the little children who can't read! Is it any wonder that they get into trouble when hazardous products are left within their reach? A household guessing game should help to illustrate the point.



Here we have 9 pressurized cans, each containing a common household product. We see here a house and garden insecticide, a deodorant, a hair spray, an oven cleaner, a plant pruning bomb, a leaf polish bomb, some spray starch, white paint, and freezer defroster. Would you like to take a chance on which is which?

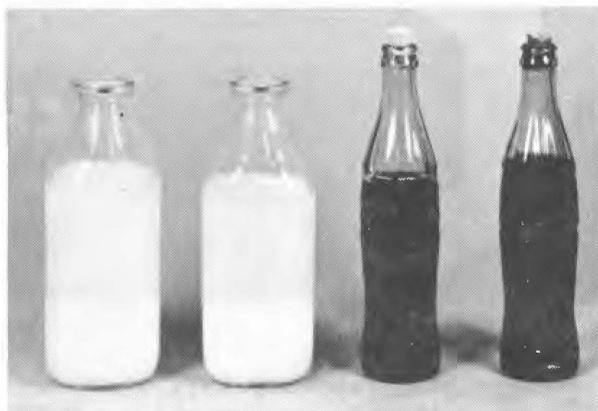


Tubes may contain anything from paint pigments to food coloring. Tubes of tooth paste, shaving cream, hair remover, zinc oxide, suntan cream, and hair conditioner are shown here. A decision would be difficult in the dark - or if one didn't read the product name - or couldn't read.

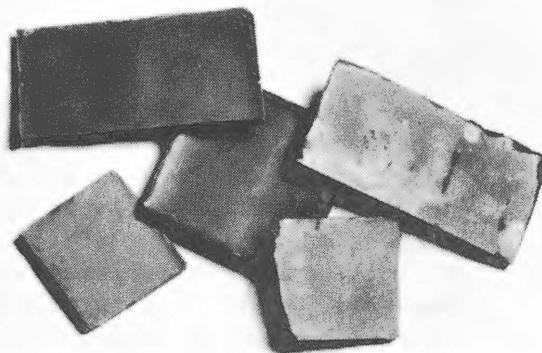
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Four familiar containers. The trouble is that some careless adult broke the rule: "Always keep chemicals, drugs and pesticides in their original containers." One soft drink bottle contains kerosene and one milk bottle has been filled with some unused insecticide emulsion. A child reaching for a bottle to get a cool drink of soda pop or a refreshing glass of milk would be right half of the time. Are 50-50 odds good enough for your child?



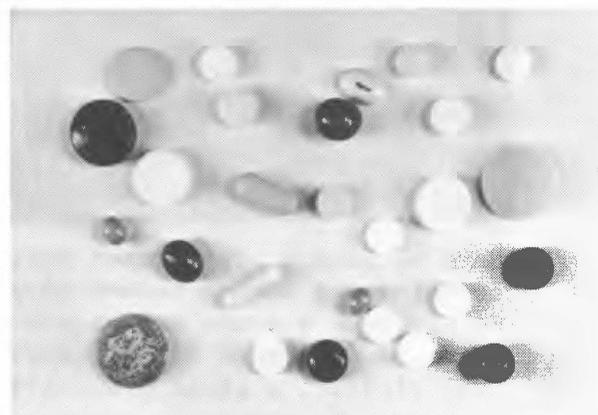
Chocolate candy or candy-coated laxative? They look alike, smell alike, and generally taste alike. Think what would happen to a little child, or an adult for that matter, if he got them mixed up.



"Mommy, may I have some gum?" The child sees where the gum is tucked away, but what little Susie or Joe doesn't know is that right next to the gum is some chewing laxative and some aspirin in chewing gum form. Could be uncomfortable or even fatal if Mommy didn't read the name on the box, or if the child came back for a "refill" on his own.



Pills, pills, candy, and more pills. Hard to tell them apart, isn't it? This collection includes aspirin - plain and candy-coated, mint drops, pills to make you stay awake and pills to make you sleep, hormones, food coloring, tranquilizers, decongestants, cold pills, breath mints, fruit candies and candy-coated peanuts. Confusing, isn't it? Would a child know the important difference?



Don't let LOOK ALIKES cause you inconvenience, discomfort, illness or real tragedy. Always read the label or other identification on every home product before you use it or give it to someone else. A minute spent may save a life.

Will you be guilty of household homicide—or will your home be a safe place to live?