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# CHEMICAL · DRUG · PESTICIDE

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## AEROSOLS--BOMBS OR BLESSINGS

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Space age--atomic age--how about an aerosol age? A recent industry survey indicated that 2,622 million aerosol or pressurized containers were filled in 1970. Personal and household products led the list. These were followed by coatings and finished, miscellaneous (including animal, automotive, industrial products, etc.), insect sprays, and lastly, food products. Let's look in on an average family for an average day and see how some of these products are used.

Dad starts the day with a fresh shave using lather from an aerosol can. After his shower, he combs his hair, and if it is particularly unruly, he may use a men's aerosol hair control spray. Next comes the aerosol deodorant. He treats a raw spot on his toe with an aerosol disinfectant.

In addition to the regular breakfast, Mom has added some fresh sliced peaches which she has dressed up with some topping from an aerosol can.

Junior dropped some bacon on his clean school pants, but no problem because Mom removes the spot with some aerosol spot remover.

The windshield on the car is very dirty so Dad cleans it with an aerosol glass cleaner. It is probably the same one that Mom uses on the windows in the house.

A pressurized deicer helps to defrost the freezer, and an aerosol oven cleaner makes the oven shine. Aerosol cans of dust remover, furniture polish, and floor wax may come into use during the day.

Before Mom goes shopping, she applies hair spray net so that the wind won't mess up her hair. She notices that the dog is scratching and that there are ants on the back porch. An aerosol ant killer takes care of one problem and an aerosol flea preparation makes the dog more comfortable.

When Dad returns from work he uses a herbicide in a pressurized can to spot-treat some weeds in the brick walk. An aerosol insecticide is used to control some bugs that are damaging the roses. The grill has a few chips in the enamel, but they are repaired quickly with spray enamel.

Far fetched? Perhaps not when we consider that approximately 2,622 million aerosol containers were filled during 1970. This is roughly a dozen containers for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

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How many different aerosol or pressurized containers do you have in your home? It might be interesting to go on an aerosol hunt and record the number found in the following locations.

Kitchen\_\_\_\_, Bathroom\_\_\_\_, Bedroom\_\_\_\_, Basement\_\_\_\_,  
Storage shed\_\_\_\_, Garage\_\_\_\_, Car\_\_\_\_, Other\_\_\_\_\_.

Bombs or blessings? Both! Aerosol preparations have made great contributions to our everyday lives. They are time savers and in many cases have made new products available to us. By their very nature, however, they are potential hazards.

In order to work, an aerosol container must be under pressure. Anything under pressure can explode if mishandled. Several simple rules will help protect you and your family.

1. Never puncture an aerosol container--usually some pressure is still there.
2. Never put an aerosol can into a trash fire--it can explode violently.
3. Never store an aerosol in a hot place, such as a closed car in the summer, or where children can get hold of it.
4. Never place an aerosol container on a stove, radiator, or other source of heat.
5. Dispose of empty containers so that children cannot come in contact with them.
6. Do not inhale the mist or get it in your eyes.
7. Read the label and heed all warnings. Take special note of warnings regarding use near an open flame.
8. Many aerosol containers look alike. Be sure you have the right one.

How many of your aerosols are stored properly--out of reach of children and away from heat? A little care now may prevent an accident later.

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