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Could Your Cleaning Products Be Harming Your Eyesight?

Tampa Bay Residents Are Not Aware of the Dangers Lurking In Their Cabinets

PORT RICHEY, FL, October 30, 2007 – Most people routinely use household chemicals such as cleaning products, pesticides and other yard chemicals without a thought to their eyes. But an estimated 125,000 eye injuries are caused each year by normal household products or activities.

It is important to take the same precautions to protect your eyes at home as in the workplace, when working with power tools, doing yard work, or when using caustic cleaners that could splash and cause injury. There are 10 products which top the list of household products that can severely damage the eyes: automatic dishwasher detergents, drain openers, hair relaxers, hair perm solutions, hair removers, lime, mildew stain removers, oven cleaners, rust removers, and toilet bowl cleaners.

*“Accidental exposures to chemicals or household products are always frightening,” said **Brent E. Parsons, O.D., optometrist and owner of Linsey Eyecare in Port Richey.** “The good news is that most of the people with ocular exposures who immediately call their local optometrist or poison control center recover well.”*

Dr. Parsons says most substances that contact the eye result in simple irritation. In these cases rinsing the eye is sufficient to resolve the problem. However, some exposure can progress to a corneal abrasion or burn. "It is important promptly seek medical attention as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in further damage to the eyes," says Dr. Parsons.

You can decrease your chance of harming your eyesight by keeping cosmetics and toiletry products out of the reach of children. Keep paints and pesticides stored away in a secure area. Wear safety goggles when using hazardous materials or when around flying debris. "And most importantly, keep all hazardous products away from young children," says Dr. Parsons. If you're concerned about chemical hazards in your home, you can also contact your local poison control center, or opt to use all natural cleaning products which lack hazardous chemicals that can harm your eyes and your health.

About Linsey Eyecare

Linsey Eyecare in Port Richey has been family owned and operated since 1986. The full-service optometric practice offers routine eye exams, contact lens fitting and emergency eye care. Owners/optometrists Dr. Nicole Linsey Parsons and Dr. Brent E. Parsons provide preventative visual health screening, including cataract inspection, testing for glaucoma, visual acuity, and near vision. Linsey Eyecare has one of the largest showrooms in the area for frames and has an onsite lab. For more information on Linsey Eyecare call (727) 844-3400 or visit www.LinseyEyecare.com

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