

Household Substances

At each table, there are some common household products. Product labels contain lots of information. The information presented on the label can be qualitative (*e.g.*, a list of ingredients) or quantitative (*e.g.*, the percentage concentration of an ingredient). Note that product labels list the most abundant material first and the least abundant last.

1. For each product, use the information on the label to answer the following questions.

a) Record the name of the product. Describe the product.

b) Record the number of substances in the product.

c) What is the major ingredient?

d) Is there an “active ingredient” identified on the label? If so, what is it?

e) List any safety information or safety symbols that the labels provided. For example, was there a reference to daily use if the substance was a food? Were there any warnings, such as suggestions not to add the product to certain other materials?

f) Identify whether each observation is quantitative or qualitative.

2. Once you’ve made observations for 7-8 products, describe any patterns in the amount and type of information you noticed in certain groups of products: for example, were there similarities in the cleaning products?

3. Organize your observations in a table. At this point there is no right or wrong way to do this. After the activity, we’ll discuss the best way to build a table. Be prepared to share your table with the class. As a group, we are going to determine the criteria of an effective and functional data table.