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9.3 Toxic Substances in the Environment

Key Concepts

All chemicals can be hazardous in large enough quantities.

Chemical hazards can cause cancer, birth defects, and improper functioning of human body systems.

Our homes and buildings may contain chemical hazards including asbestos, radon, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and lead.

There are chemical hazards in the air, on land, and in the water.

Toxic chemicals accumulate in organisms as they feed on one another.

1. Define each vocabulary term

Term	Definition
Pollution	
Carcinogen	
Teratogen	
Neurotoxin	A chemical that harms the nervous system
Asbestos	
Radon	
Bioaccumulation	
Biomagnification	

SKILL BUILDER Organize Information

- 2 Complete the T-chart by writing in details and examples of indoor chemical hazards and outdoor chemical hazards.

Indoor Chemical Hazards	Outdoor Chemical Hazards

SELF-CHECK

Answer the questions to test your knowledge of lesson concepts. You can check your work using the answers on the bottom of the page.

- 3 Define the different types of chemical hazards. _____

- 4 What is biomagnification? _____
