

Mothballs used in excess can pose risks



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I had to write after reading the letter about "Granny Clair" who reeks of mothballs. My mother's home was also filled with mothballs. All her clothing smelled like mothballs, too. About 15 years ago, she experienced bad vertigo and nausea. One doctor told her it was her inner ear. Another told her it was her eyes. Three years ago, we visited her in winter while the house was all closed

up. One morning I awoke with so much dizziness and nausea I could hardly lift my head. When I returned to California, I mentioned it to my doctor, who told me I had been poisoned by the mothballs. Later, my mother had to move to a convalescent home. After six months of living there, her vertigo disappeared. Please let people who use mothballs know they should be careful how they use them. We're lucky neither of

us died from it. — DARLENE IN MISSION VIEJO, CALIF.
 DEAR DARLENE: Thank you for the warning. I'm sure more than a few people will be surprised to learn that mothballs can be toxic to humans. (I was.) Read on:
 DEAR ABBY: I'm very concerned about that 75-year-old grandmother whose house is permeated with the smell of mothballs. The main component of mothballs is naphthalene, an aromatic hydrocarbon, which can cause all sorts of neurological problems, as well as hemolytic anemia, kidney and liver damage and cataracts. Remember, this is a poison that is meant to kill insects, and humans or other mammals are not immune to its effects.

Other aromatic hydrocarbons include benzene, gasoline, phenol, styrene, toluene and xylene, which are known to cause neurological damage. I would not take Granny Claire to an ear, nose and throat specialist. I'd take her immediately to her internist and explain the situation so that the proper blood tests can be administered. — WORRIED ABOUT GRANNY'S HEALTH IN IRVINE, CALIF.
 DEAR WORRIED: Good grief! I will contact the woman's relative immediately and make sure that it's done.
 DEAR ABBY: I'm deeply worried about the elderly woman who smells of mothballs. There are warnings on the container about their toxicity and

the danger of too much exposure to the vapors, which she is receiving if her clothes aren't aired out thoroughly before they are worn. She may be unaware of the danger, and feel that "if a little is good, a lot is better," which is common in older people who are unaware of the downside of pesticides.
 Maybe one of her trusted relatives can work with her to limit the mothball use to one closed trunk, and help her air out her house and clothing. If there is a moth problem, there are other less toxic ways to get rid of the pests.
 Thanks for helping to educate a lot of people today. Pesticides, including such common "harmless" ones as mothballs, must be treated with re-

spect. — JERI, AN R.N. IN MICHIGAN
 DEAR JERI: I learn from my readers every day. I'm pleased to help.
 DEAR ABBY: I bought a rubber garbage container with a tight-fitting lid.
 I roll my clothes so they'll take less space and fill it halfway up. On top of them I place a sheet of fabric softener or perfumed soap bars.
 Then I put the remaining clothes into the container, top them with another sheet of fabric softener and put on the lid. I never find any insects or critters later.
 I am a contemporary of "Granny Claire's" and hope she'll take my advice. — EVONNE IN DENVER

TUESDAY EVENING		E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone MAY 10, 2005									
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	53	A&E	Cold Case Files Man shot; rapist sentenced.		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Knievel's Wild Ride "Knievel Inc." (N) (G)	Crossing Jordan "Pilot" (N) (G)		Cold Case Files Man shot; rapist sentenced.	
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez (N) (G)	According to Jim (N)	According to Jim (N)	Blind Justice "Doggone" (N) (G) (DVS)	News (G)	(:35) Nightline (G)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Moby. (N) (G)	
26	48	ANPL	Animal Precinct A chow becomes aggressive.		Animal Precinct "Body of Evidence" (G)		Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct A chow becomes aggressive.		Animal Precinct "Body of Evidence" (G)	
63	54	BRAVO	Elton John at Radio City		From New York City. (G)	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Brud L"		Showdog Moms & Dads		The West Wing (N) (G)	
7	11	CBS	NCIS "SWAK" (N) (G) (U)		The Amazing Race 7 (Season Finale) The final three teams race to the finish line. (N) (G) (U)		News (N)	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N) (G)		Late Late Show	
24	50	DISC	Dirty Jobs (G)		Monster Garage "Dodge/44 Magnum"		American Chopper "Police Bike 1" (G)	Deadliest Catch "Beat the Clock"		Deadliest Catch "Dead of Winter" (N)	
33	44	DISN	Braceface "Twisted"	Kim Possible (G)	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister (N) (G)	That's So Raven (G)	That's So Raven (G)	★ ★ "That Darn Cat" (1997) Christina Ricci. A feisty feline holds the key to a kidnapping case.		
49	81	EITV	Star-Makeovers		Star-Makeovers		Gastineau	Showgirls		Howard S. Howard S.	Saturday Night Live (N)
22	56	ESPN	ESPN's Bowling Night		Gridiron Stars		Baseball Tonight (G)	SportsCenter (Live) (G)		Outside	Baseball
54	57	ESPN2	College Baseball Houston at Texas A&M. (Live)				Gridiron Stars			Schwab	Schwab
32	46	FAM	★ ★ "Stuart Little" (1999) Geena Davis. (G)		Who? (G)	Who? (G)	The 700 Club (G)			Videos	Videos
59	-	FIT TV	Ultimate Goals (N) (G)		Fitness	Fitness	Extremists	Extremists		Ultimate Goals (N) (G)	Fitness
35	31	FMC	★ ★ "Silver Streak" (1976) Gene Wilder.		★ ★ ★ "Heaven Can Wait" (1943, Comedy)		★ ★ ★ "Barton Fink"				
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live Flank steak with mushroom ragout.		Roker on the Road	Roker on the Road	\$40-a-Day "Bermuda"	Iron Chef Iron Chef Sakai is challenged.		Emeril Live "Cajun Cooking" Cajun food.	
13	7	FOX	American Idol (Live) (G)		House "Love Hurts" (N) (G) (PA)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (G)	Bob Newhart	Bob Newhart	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore
40	38	FX	King of Hill	King of Hill	Fear Factor (N) (G)	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Independence Day" (1996) Will Smith.			
30	55	FXSP	Pregame	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Colorado Rockies. (Subject to Blackout)		Rocky Mt.		Sports List	Best-Sports		
5	14	HBO	(5:15) ★ ★ "Starks & Hutch" (2004) PG-13		Last Letters Home: American Troops		★ ★ "S.W.A.T." (2003) Samuel L. Jackson. A Los Angeles SWAT team must protect a criminal.	Deadwood Cochran delivers a dire prognosis.			
62	67	HGTV	Designed Get Color		Decorating Mission		Designers' Designers'	Design	House	Designed Get Color	
58	52	HIST	Wild West Tech "Disaster Tech" (G)		Breaking Vegas Countdowners. (N) (G)		Modern Marvels "Engineering Disasters 12"	Hooked: Illegal Drugs and How They Got		Wild West Tech "Disaster Tech" (G)	
25	35	IND	Friends (N) (G)	Friends (N) (G)	Sex and the City (N) (G)	(:35) Sex and the City (N) (G)	Friends (N) (G)	Everybody-Raymond	★ ★ "Money Talks" (1997) (PA) Chris Tucker.		
18	63	LIFE	"Price-Heart"		"A Memory in My Heart" (1999) Jane Seymour.		Golden	Golden	The Nanny	The Nanny	
23	77	MTV	TRL (TV) (N) (G)		Challenge	Challenge	Direct Effect (N)	Barkers	Barkers	MTV Cribs	MTV Spec
3	9	NBC	News (G)	Ent. Tonight	Will & Grace (N)	Will & Grace (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Blood" (N)			News (G)	Tonight Show
8	8	NBC	Will & Grace (N)	Scrubs (N)	Scrubs (N)	Will & Grace (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Blood" (N)	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) (G)		Late Night Show
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob	School	Full House	Fatherhood	Fresh Pr. Cosby	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS	Nova "Secrets of the Crocodile Caves" (N) (G)		Colonial House "Regime Change" (N) (G) (DVS)		Frontline Mental health behind bars. (N) (G) (U)	BBC World News	That's My Boy	Charlie Rose (N) (G) (U)	
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) "The Frighteners"		★ ★ "Casper" (1995) Christina Ricci. (G)		★ ★ "Vampire in Brooklyn" (1995, Horror) (G)				
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure (N)		Wildest Police Videos		CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn		"Another 48 HRS." (N)	
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out (N)		Clean Sweep A family room is a mess. (G)		In a Fix Aspiring actors' first home. (G)	Sports Disasters A tornado strikes boat racers.		Overhaulin' (N)	
28	37	TNT	NBA Basketball Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (Live) (G)				NBA Basketball Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (Live) (G)				
51	86	TRAV	Taste	Taste	Made	Made	Great Cruises (G)	Taste	Taste	Made	Made
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven (G)		Griffith	Leave	Sanford	All-Family	Top 10	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)
60	89	UNIV	Apuesta por un Amor		La Madrastra		Casos de la Vida Real	Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez	
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU		★ ★ "Atomic Train" (1999) Rob Lowe, Esai Morales. (G)		Law & Order: SVU	Dead Zone			
12	3	WB	Friends (N) (G)	Everybody-Raymond	Gilmore Girls "Blame Boozie and Melville" (N)		One Tree Hill "Lifetime Piling Up" (N) (G) (U)	News (N) (G)		Friends (N) (G)	Will & Grace (G)
99	36	WGN	★ ★ "RoboCop 2" (1990) Peter Weller.				WGN News at Nine (G)	Becker (N)	Becker (N)	Home Delivery	

WEDNESDAY EVENING		E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone MAY 11, 2005									
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	53	A&E	American Justice: Who Wants to Kill		Stealing Wheels Auto thieves. (G)		Airline (G)	Airline (G)	Crossing Jordan "The Dawn of a New Day" (N)		American Justice: Who Wants to Kill
4	6	ABC	Lost "Born to Run" (N)		(:01) Alias "In Dreams..." (N) (G) (U)		(:02) Eyes "Karma" (N)		News (G)	(:35) Nightline (G)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (G) (U)
26	48	ANPL	Animal Cops Houston "Trouble"		Animal Cops Houston Loose dogs. (G)		Animal Cops Houston "Caught on Tape" (N)		Animal Cops Houston "Trouble"		Animal Cops Houston Loose dogs. (G)
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Brud L"		Showdog Moms & Dads		Showdog Moms & Dads		Project Greenlight (N)		The West Wing "The Black Vera Wang" (G)
7	11	CBS	★ ★ "Elvis" (2005) (Part 2 of 2) Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Randy Quaid. Premiere. (N) (G)		CSI: NY "The Closer" (N) (G)		News (N)	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N) (G)		Late Late Show	
24	50	DISC	Dirty Jobs (G)		Monster Garage "Garbage Truck"		American Chopper "Police Bike 2" (G)	It Takes a Thief "Thief and the Single Lady" (N)		MythBusters Movie special effects and stunts.	
33	44	DISN	Braceface	Kim Possible (G)	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister (N) (G)	That's So Raven (G)	That's So Raven (G)	★ ★ "A Kid in Aladdin's Palace" (1997, Adventure) Thomas Ian Nicholas, Rhona Mitra. PG (U)		
49	81	EITV	Star-Makeovers		Star-Makeovers		Howard S. Howard S.	Saturday Night Live (N)		Howard S. Howard S.	Saturday Night Live (N)
22	56	ESPN	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at St. Louis Cardinals. (Live) (G)				SportsCenter (Live) (G)	Outside	Baseball		
54	57	ESPN2	MLB Baseball Houston Astros at Florida Marlins. (Live)				World-Poker	Series-Poker		Schwab	Schwab
32	46	FAM	★ ★ "The Sandlot" (1993) Tom Gury.		Who? (G)	Who? (G)	The 700 Club (G)			Videos	Videos
59	-	FIT TV	Low Carb	Low Carb	Fitness	Fitness	Extremists	Extremists		Low Carb	Low Carb
35	31	FMC	★ ★ "Wake Me When It's Over" (1960)		(:10) ★ ★ "Man Trouble" (1992) Jack Nicholson.		★ ★ "The Broken Land"				
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Country Ham" Jamie O'Neal. (N)		BBQ With Bobby Flay		Foodnation	Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef America Bobby Flay.	Emeril Live
13	7	FOX	That '70s Show (N)	That '70s Show (N)	American Idol (G)	Stacked (N) (G)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (G)	Bob Newhart	Bob Newhart	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore
40	38	FX	King of Hill	King of Hill	Fear Factor (N) (G)	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Joe Somebody" (2001, Comedy) Tim Allen.			
30	55	FXSP	Sports List	Rocky Mt.	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Colorado Rockies.		Rocky Mt.	Sports List	Best-Sports		
5	14	HBO	"Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde" (1992, Biography) Denzel Washington, Spike Lee. Spike Lee's portrait of the late civil rights advocate. (N) PG-13		★ ★ ★ "Malcolm X" (1992, Biography) Denzel Washington, Spike Lee. Spike Lee's portrait of the late civil rights advocate. (N) PG-13		★ ★ ★ "Warm Springs" (2005) Kenneth Branagh.				
62	67	HGTV	Kitchen	Weekend	Want That Landscap	Curb	What Get	Design	House	Kitchen	Weekend
58	52	HIST	Modern Marvels Concrete changed the world.		Modern Marvels "Metal"		Modern Marvels Brick-and-mortar structures.	Full Throttle "Ford F100 Truck" Ford truck. (G)		Modern Marvels Concrete changed the world.	
25	35	IND	Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Seinfeld (N) (G)	Seinfeld (N) (G)	Sex and the City (N) (G)	(:35) Sex and the City (N) (G)	Friends (N) (G)	★ ★ "The Wedding Singer" (1998, Comedy)	
18	63	LIFE	"Three Lives"		"Sinners Need Company" (2002) Gail O'Grady.		Golden	Golden	The Nanny	The Nanny	
23	77	MTV	TRL (TV) (N) (G)		MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	Direct Effect (N)	Making Trippin'		Barkers	Barkers
3	9	NBC	News (G)	Ent. Tonight	Dateline NBC (N) (G)		Revelations (N) (Part 5 of 6) (G)	Law & Order "In God We Trust" (N) (G)		News (G)	Tonight Show
8	8	NBC	Dateline NBC (N) (G)		Revelations (N) (Part 5 of 6) (G)		Law & Order "In God We Trust" (N) (G)	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) (G)		Late Night Show
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob	Unfabulous	Full House	Full House	Fresh Pr. Cosby	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS	Roadshow	Cooking Under Fire	American Masters (N) (G)		Great Performances "Making the Misfits" (N)	BBC World News	As Time Goes By	Charlie Rose (N) (G) (U)	
38	83	SCIFI	Ripley-Believe		Ripley-Believe		Ripley-Believe	★ "Maximum Overdrive" (1986) Emilio Estevez.			
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure (N)		Wildest Police Videos		CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn		★ ★ "Rollerball" (N)	
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out (N)		Clean Sweep Providing tools for organization.		In a Fix (G)	While You Were Out (N)		Amazing American Families	
28	37	TNT	NBA Basketball Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (Live) (G)				NBA Basketball Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (Live) (G)				
51	86	TRAV	Vegas: Beating		World Poker Tour		Vegas: Beating			World Poker Tour	
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven (G)		Griffith	Leave	Top 10 (N)	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)
60	89	UNIV	Apuesta por un Amor		La Madrastra		Don Francisco Presenta	Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez	
20	34	USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Kojak (G)	
12	3	WB	Friends (N) (G)	Everybody-Raymond	Smallville "Forever" (N) (G)		Jack & Bobby "Legacy" (Season Finale) (N) (G)	News (G)	News (G)	Friends (G)	Will & Grace (G)
99	36	WGN	★ ★ "RoboCop 3" (1993) Robert John Burke.				WGN News at Nine (G)	Becker (N)	Becker (N)	Home Delivery	



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THURSDAY EVENING		E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone MAY 12, 2005									
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	53	A&E	Cold Case Files A child's toy helps to convict a serial killer. (N) (G)		The First 48 "Devil's Candy" (N) (G)		Knievel's Wild Ride "Sky City, NM" (G)		Cold Case Files (G)		
4	6	ABC	★ ★ "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (2002, Comedy) Nia Vardalos, John Corbett. Premiere. (N)		PrimeTime Live (G)		News (G)	(:35) Nightline (G)		(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (G)	
26	48	ANPL	Animal Cops San Francisco		Animal Cops San Francisco		Animal Cops San Francisco "Unlawful Shot?"		Animal Cops San Francisco		Animal Cops San Francisco
63	54	BRAVO	The West Wing "The Benign Prerogative" (N)		The West Wing "Slow News Day" (N) (G)		Project Greenlight (N) (G)	Showdog Moms & Dads		The West Wing "We Killed Yamamoto" (G)	
7	11	CBS	Survivor: Palau (TV) (N) (G)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Iced" (N) (G)		Without a Trace "John Michaels" (N) (G) (U)	News (N)	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N) (G)		Late Late Show
24	50	DISC	Life of Grime "The Rat Race"		Monster Garage "Peter-built Chopper"		American Chopper (G)	Humanzee (G)		Wild Child: The Story of Feri Children (N)	
33	44	DISN	Braceface	Kim Possible (G)	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister (N) (G)	That's So Raven (G)	That's So Raven (G)	★ ★ "Quints" (2000) Kimberly J. Brown. An only child must adjust to her parents' new quintuplets.		
49	81	EITV	Saturday Night Live (N)		Saturday Night Live (N)		Saturday Night Live (N)	Howard S. Howard S.	Howard S. Howard S.	Saturday Night Live (N)	
22	56	ESPN	NBA Basketball: Conf. Semi. -- Teams TBA				NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal Game 2 -- Teams TBA.			SportsCtr.	
54	57	ESPN2	Teamates	Teamates	ESPN's Bowling Night		Baseball Tonight (G)	SportsCenter (Live) (G)		Outside	Baseball
32	46	FAM	★ ★ "Beethoven's 2nd" (1993, Comedy) (G)		Who? (G)	Who? (G)	The 700 Club (G)			Videos	Videos
59	-	FIT TV	No Opportunity Wasted		Fitness	Fitness	Extremists	Extremists		No Opportunity Wasted	Fitness
35	31	FMC	★ ★ "Edward Scissorhands" (1990, Fantasy)		★ ★ "Gordon						