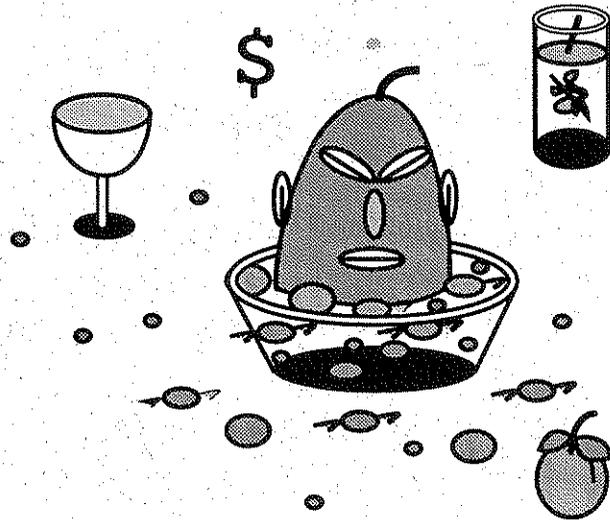


## WHAT CAN BE USED IN PLACE OF *AZOGUE*?

*Botánicas* have other products  
as effective as *azogue*.



- There are many spiritual substitutes for *azogue*. Alternatives for *azogue* can be found in the books sold in the *botánicas*. *Espiritistas* and *Santeros* will suggest other things that may be used in place of *azogue*.
- For personal protection, there are also many substitutes for *azogue*. Instead of preparing a personal protection (*resguardo*) with *azogue*, other things can be used.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

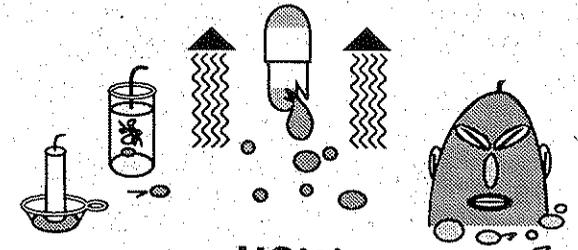
 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT  
Hispanic Health Council  
(860) 527-0856

 ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
State of Connecticut Department of  
Public Health  
(860) 509-7742

 CONNECTICUT  
POISON CONTROL CENTER  
University of Connecticut  
Farmington, CT 06030  
(860) 679-3456 or 1-800-343-2722  
(24 Hours)

HISPANIC HEALTH COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT  
INFORMATION BROCHURE NO. ②

## AZOGUE AND YOUR HEALTH



### HOW TO PREVENT METALLIC MERCURY POISONING

(free distribution)

Hartford, CT

## WHAT IS AZOGUE?

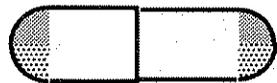
*Azogue* is a very toxic, silver white liquid metal.

- ◆ It does not dissolve in water or alcohol.
- ◆ It has no smell but has a metallic taste.
- ◆ It is liquid at room temperature.
- ◆ It evaporates when in contact with air.
- ◆ Its vapors are invisible to the eye.
- ◆ It stays where spilled for a long time.

- In English and Spanish *quicksilver* and *azogue* are popular names for *metallic mercury*. There are other types of mercury besides *azogue*.

All types of mercury are toxic.

- *Azogue* is sold in *botánicas* in three to five ounce capsules for spiritual “works” (*trabajos*).
- *Azogue* is found in most thermometers used to measure body temperature, but in much smaller amounts than in the capsules sold at the *botánicas*.

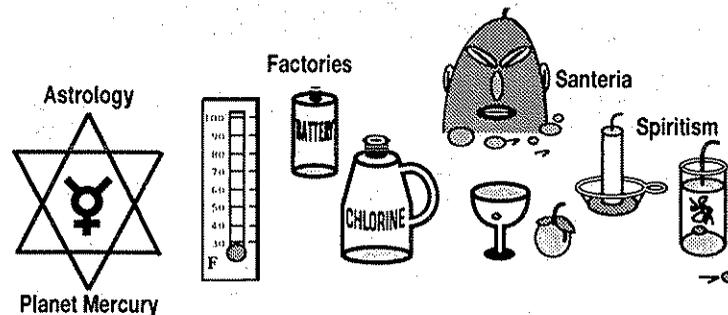


THE AZOGUE CAPSULES HAVE  
UP TO 10 TIMES (3 TO 5 OUNCES) MORE AZOGUE  
THAN ONE THERMOMETER.

- The *azogue* that escapes from a broken thermometer is enough to make individuals sick. Children have been poisoned after breaking a thermometer and breathing *azogue* vapors.

## WHAT IS AZOGUE USED FOR?

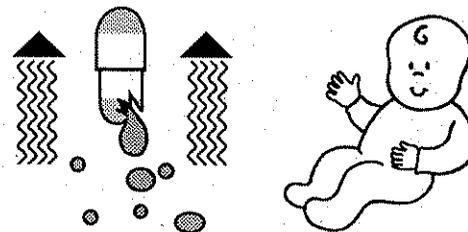
*Azogue* is used for industrial and spiritual works.



## IS THERE A SAFE WAY TO USE AZOGUE?

**NO!** It is very dangerous to use *azogue* and breath its vapors.

- There is always a risk of breathing *azogue* vapors when it is used in any way.
- *Azogue* actually does more harm to your health when inhaled than when ingested, although neither use is recommended.
- *Azogue* has the greatest effect on the fetus and small children.
- Health officials recommend that *azogue* not be used in any way, for these reasons.



## HOW CAN AZOGUE AFFECT YOUR HEALTH?

*Azogue* may cause brain damage and even death.

- The most affected part of the body is the nervous system.
- The harm done by *azogue* is similar to lead poisoning, as both metals affect the brain.

## Azogue Poisoning Signs

- ◆ memory loss
- ◆ hand tremors
- ◆ headache
- ◆ depression
- ◆ fatigue, insomnia
- ◆ hallucinations
- ◆ also affected are: lungs, kidneys, eyes, skin

## HOW CAN WE MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF AZOGUE IN THE BODY OR HOME?

\* There are laboratory tests and equipment for its detection.

- The only way to know if there are *azogue* vapors in the home is with a small machine (mercury vapor sniffer) that measures the level of *azogue* in the air in the home.
- There are laboratory tests that measure the level of *azogue* in the blood and urine.
- Common household appliances should not be used to collect spilled *azogue* (e.g., vacuum cleaner broom, mop).