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. Espíritistas 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.

- Astrology
- Factories
- Santería
- Spiritism

- Planet Mercury

**IS THERE A SAFE WAY TO USE AZOGUE?**

**NO!** It is very dangerous to use *azogue* and breathe 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 WE MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF AZOGUE IN THE BODY OR HOME?**

- 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).

**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
- headache
- fatigue, insomnia
- hallucinations
- depression
- 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.