

POISON IVY

Poison ivy, sumac, and oak are plants that can cause a severe allergic reaction if touched. Contact with the oily substance (resin) found on every part of these plants may result in a severe rash. The resin can remain on contaminated clothing, pets, tools, and shoes for a long time if not cleaned properly and can also cause a reaction on contact. Do not touch anything that may have come into contact with poison ivy. The rash is NOT spread by the fluid in the blisters that form on the skin.



CALL 911 if:

- You develop swelling or difficulty breathing.
- You are exposed to the smoke of a burning poison ivy plant.

CALL your medical provider if:

- You develop severe itching.
- Your rash involves the face, lips, eyes, or genitals.
- Your rash shows any signs of infection.

The following are suggestions to help you prevent a poison ivy reaction:

- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when walking in areas where these plants may grow.
- Using skin products such as Ivy Block beforehand may reduce the risk of a rash.
- Learn to identify poisonous plants and teach your children to do the same.
- Remove these plants if they grow near your home (but NEVER burn them).
- Be aware that pets may carry resins that can cause an allergic reaction.
- Wash thoroughly as soon as possible after a suspected exposure.

Source: National Library of Medicine

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