

Protect Your Child From Poison



More than half of all poison exposures occur in children under age six. Their curiosity causes them to put many things in their mouth. The most common forms of poison exposure for this age group are cosmetics, personal care products, cleaning supplies, analgesics, and foreign bodies.

What does a poison look like?

Children may be attracted to poisons because they can come in pretty colors, shapes, and sizes or be invisible. A poison can look like something to eat or drink. It can even smell and/or taste good.

How can you be poisoned?

Poisoning can happen by eating, drinking, touching, or smelling something that makes you sick or hurts you.

Poison Prevention

- Lock up all toxic substances. Examples include medicines, cleaning products, paint, pesticides, automobile fluids, and anything you do not want your child to swallow.
- Keep potential poisons in their original containers. DO NOT store chemicals in food containers, cups, or bottles.
- Do not store food and household chemical products in the same area.
- Never tell a child that medicine is a candy or treat.
- Read and follow the directions on the label before taking any medicine. Too much medicine can be deadly.
- Do not use old and outdated medicines. Some medications can become dangerous over time.
- Teach children not to eat wild plants or berries. They could be poisonous.
- Always open the garage door before starting the car. If letting the car warm up, back it out of the garage first to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

What can you do if someone is poisoned?

- If you think someone has been poisoned, call the Poison Center. Learn and post the Poison Center's phone number – 800.222.1222 – on or near all phones in the home.



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