



# Preventing Poisonings in the Home

A poison is anything that can make you sick, hurt you, or even kill you if it gets into your body through your mouth, nose, eyes, or skin. Poisons found in and around the home include: cleaning products, laundry products, garden and lawn care products, auto fluids and cosmetics. These poisons often come in bright colors and pretty bottles. Children may mistake poisons for something good to eat or drink. Medicines and vitamins can also be a poison. Both prescription and over-the-counter medicines can be a poison if you take too much or use them the wrong way. Plants can also be a poison. Both indoor and outdoor plants can be harmful if they are used in the wrong way.

## First Aid

In case of a poisoning, follow these first-aid steps:

For Swallowed Poisons:

- Call the Poison Center right away.

For Poisons in the Eye:

- Flush the victim's eye with lukewarm water for about 20 minutes.
- Call the Poison Center

For Inhaled (Breathed In) Poisons:

- Get the victim to fresh air right away.
- Call the Poison Center

For Poisons on the Skin:

- Take off any clothing that has poison on it.
- Rinse the victim's skin with water for 20 minutes.
- Call the Poison Center

## Poison Safety

Here are some safety tips to help keep your family safe from poisons. Use the Home Safety Checklist (on the back) to help you store the listed poisons safely!

### 1. Store Poison Safely

- Store poisons in locked cabinets out of reach and sight of children and pets.
- Keep poisons stored in the bottles they came in. Make sure the bottles are clearly labeled.
- Never store poisons in drink or food bottles.
- Never store poisons in the same area where you store food items.
- Keep medicines and vitamins in bottle with child-safety caps (child resistant packaging). Make sure the lids are closed tightly at all times.

### 2. Use Poisons Safely

- Before you use a poison, read the label on the bottle.
  - While you are using a poison, never leave it out where a child may get to it.
  - After you use a poison, put it back in a locked cabinet. Make sure the bottle is closed tightly.
  - Never call medicine "candy." A child may eat the medicine thinking it is candy.
  - Do not take medicine in front of children or give medicine to one child while another is watching. Children may be tempted to take the medicine later, when you are not watching.
- ### 3. Know What to do in a Poisoning Emergency
- Keep the phone number of the Poison Center on or near your phones.
  - If you think someone has been poisoned, call the Poison Center right away at 1-800-222-1222. Never wait for the person to look or feel sick!

**Child Safety Caps are not child proof! Some children can open these caps. This is why it is important to keep medicines and vitamins locked up!**

**IN A POISONING EMERGENCY, CALL 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK: 1-800-222-1222**  
**Teletype for the deaf and hearing Impaired only: TDD 404-616-9287**

## Calling the Poison Center...

When you call the Poison Center, take the poison with you to the phone. You may be asked to read the label on the container. You will be asked to give:

- Your name, phone number, county, and zip code
- The name of the substance or poison
- The victim's name, age and weight
- The amount of the substance or poison
- Any symptoms the victim has
- Any current health problems the victim has
- The time the poisoning took place
- Any medicines the victim is taking

## Syrup of Ipecac

Syrup of Ipecac is a plant extract used to make a person throw up. At this time, the Poison Center recommends that Syrup of Ipecac should no longer be used in the home as a poison treatment. For questions or concerns, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

## Home Safety Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure the poisons listed are stored in locked cabinets, out of the reach and sight of children and pets. Call the Poison Center right away if you think someone has been poisoned by any of the poisons listed.

\*The poisons marked with an asterisk (\*) can be very dangerous. Be very careful when using and storing these poisons.

### Kitchen/Laundry Area

- Air Fresheners
- Ammonia
- Bleach
- Bug Killers\*
- Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco\*
- Cleaners
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Drain Cleaners\*
- Fabric Softeners
- Furniture Polishes
- Laundry Detergents
- Liquor
- Medicines\*
- Metal Cleaners\*
- Oven Cleaners\*
- Plants
- Rust Removers\*
- Scouring Powders
- Vitamins

### Bathroom

- Air Fresheners
- After-Shave Lotions
- Cleaners\*
- Cologne/Perfumes
- False Fingernail Removers\*
- Hair Removers
- Hair Styling Products
- Lotions, Creams, Oils
- Make-up
- Medicines\*
- Mouthwash\*
- Nail Polish/Removers
- Rubbing Alcohol\*
- Shampoos
- Shaving Creams
- Soaps
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners\*
- Vitamins

### Bedroom

- Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco\*
- Cologne/Perfumes
- Make-up
- Medicines\*
- Plants

### Living Room

- Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco\*
- Liquor
- Plants
- Tape or Stereo Cleaners
- VCR/DVD Cleaners

### Yard

- Berries
- Bug Killers\*
- Fertilizers
- Flowers
- Flower Bulbs
- Mushrooms\*
- Shrubs and Trees
- Weed Killers\*

### Garage/Basement/Storage

- Antifreeze\*
- Bug Killers\*
- Fertilizers
- Gasoline
- Glues
- Kerosene
- Lighter Fluids
- Lime\*
- Lye\*
- Moth Balls
- Pains
- Paint Thinners
- Pool Supplies
- Rodent Killers
- Turpentine
- Weed Killers\*
- Windshield Wiper Fluid\*

