

# Accidental Poisoning

**Poisons can be found in everyday items located in all areas of your home – kitchen, closets, bathrooms, attic, garage, dining room, laundry room, storage areas and basements. To help prevent accidental poisoning, follow these poison prevention tips.**

## **Poison prevention tips**

- Use child-resistant containers (but remember: child-resistant containers are not completely childproof).
- Keep potentially poisonous products in their original containers (see below for product list).
- Place potentially poisonous products out of reach immediately after use.
- Put *Mr. Yuk* stickers on all poisonous products in and around your home, and teach children what the stickers mean.
  - For more information on *Mr. Yuk* – or to order *Mr. Yuk* stickers – visit the Washington Poison Center’s Web site at: [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org)
- Keep emergency numbers (including the Washington Poison Center) next to your phone.

## **Make sure these products are stored safely**

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications (including aspirin and vitamins).
- Disinfectants, deodorants and air fresheners.
- All kinds of sprays.
- Polishes and cleansing powder.
- Fertilizers and weed killers.
- Insect and rodent poison; slug bait.

- Paint remover and turpentine.
- Cosmetics.
- Soaps, detergents and shampoo.
- Toilet bowl and drain cleaners.
- Lye and bleach.
- Kerosene and lighter fluids.
- Insect repellent.
- Mothballs and pesticides.
- Note: Special care should also be taken with house plants as many may be poisonous if eaten by humans or pets.

### **What to do when someone is poisoned**

If it is a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1. If you suspect a possible poisoning – or for more information on potential poisons – call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

### **Be prepared to answer the following questions**

- What was taken? (Exact name of the product.) Bring product container to the phone if possible.
- When was it taken?
- How much was taken?
- Who took it? Body size makes a big difference in determining a poisonous dose.
- The name, condition, age and weight of the patient.
- Address and telephone number from where you are calling.

### **About the Washington Poison Center**

The Washington Poison Center is a 24-hour telephone service providing information and emergency response for poisonings.

Staffed by nurses, pharmacists and poison information specialists – and supported by a board-certified clinical toxicologist – the center handles over 70,000 calls a year.

To learn more, visit the center's Web site at [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org)



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