



Dangers of Button Batteries

Swallowing button batteries can be fatal and/or cause serious injuries. Not only do they pose a choking threat but can burn through tissue if swallowed. Every year in the United States, more than 3,500 people of all ages swallow miniature disc or “button” batteries. These are used to power hearing aids, watches, toys, games, flashing jewelry, singing greeting cards, remote control devices, and many other items.

If a battery is ingested:

1. Immediately call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at **202-625-3333** (call collect if necessary), or call your poison center at **1-800-222-1222**.
2. If readily available, provide the battery identification number, found on the package or from a matching battery.
3. In most cases, an x-ray must be obtained right away to be sure that the battery has gone through the esophagus into the stomach. (If the battery remains in the esophagus, it must be removed immediately.)
4. Don't induce vomiting. Don't eat or drink until the x-ray shows the battery is beyond the esophagus.
5. Watch for fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, or blood in the stools. Report these symptoms immediately.
6. Check the stools until the battery has passed.

Button batteries may also cause permanent injury when they are placed in the nose or the ears. Symptoms to watch for are pain and/or a discharge from the nose or ears. **DO NOT** use nose or ear drops until the person has been examined by a physician, as these fluids can cause additional injury if a battery is involved.

SOURCE: www.poison.org/battery

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