



Poison Safety

Facts

- Children are at a significantly greater risk than adults for accidental poisoning, because they are smaller, have faster metabolic rates, and are less able to physically handle toxic chemicals
- 83% of poisonings are unintentional exposures; substances most frequently involved are analgesics, cosmetics/personal care products, cleaning supplies, and prescription drugs

Drugs, Medicines and Vitamins

- Keep medicines and vitamins in their original child resistant bottles and containers locked up and out of reach
- Don't call medicine candy
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children because they often imitate adults
- Beware of medicines in purses, suitcases, pillboxes; children may be curious

Household and Chemical Products

- Store household and chemical products locked up, away from food and out of sight of children
- Store all products in their original containers
- Never mix household products together; may produce poisonous gasses
- Don't leave poisonous products unattended
- Turn on fan and open window when using chemical products

Around the Home

- Install CO detectors in your home; appliances that use gasoline, kerosene, propane, natural gas, and wood produce an odorless gas called carbon monoxide often called the "silent killer;" check fuel burning appliances annually
- Do not keep your car running in an attached garage; the carbon monoxide emitted from automobiles can enter your home
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets
- Keep children away from plants and lawns that have been sprayed with weed killer, bug killer, or fertilizer
- Teach children not to eat mushrooms, leaves, and berries that grow in the yard

Be Prepared and Calm

- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers near your phone
****Poison Control Center – 1-800-222-1222****
- Call 911 if the person has collapsed, is not breathing, or is having a hard time breathing; if the person is awake, call the Poison Control Center
- Know the person's weight, age, container of poison, the time of poison exposure, and the address where poisoning occurred when you call
- Stay on the phone and follow instructions from the emergency operator or Poison Control Center