



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Poison Prevention Tips

Tips to keep your kids safe from poisoning

Many people assume they are safe from poisons, but in fact, they are part of every American household. According to Safe Kids, 9 out of 10 poisonings occur at home. Poisons can be found in perfumes, the laundry room, backyard plants and especially chemicals under the sink and scattered in the garage.

Beverly Losman of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Safe Kids Georgia offers these tips to parents to help keep kids from finding their way into potentially dangerous household items, and what to do if your child accidentally ingests something harmful:

Keep cleaners and other toxic products out of reach.

- Store all household products out of children's sight and reach. Young children are often eye-level with items under the kitchen and bathroom sinks. Any bleach, detergents, dishwasher liquid or cleaning solutions kept under the sink should find a new storage location.
- Install child safety locks on cabinets where poisonous items are stored. It only takes a few minutes and will give you one less thing to worry about.
- Read product labels to find out what can be hazardous to kids. Dangerous household items include makeup, personal care products, plants, pesticides, lead, art supplies, alcohol and carbon monoxide.
- Don't leave poisonous products unattended while in use. Many incidents happen when adults are distracted for a moment on the phone or at the door.
- Check your garage, basement and other storage areas for cleaning and work supplies you no longer need and can discard.

Check your purse for potential hazards.

- Be aware of any medications or makeup that may be in your handbag. Store handbags out of the reach of young children.

Use original, child-resistant packaging.

- Buy child-resistant packages when possible.
- Keep products in their original packages to avoid confusion.

Keep medicines up and away.

- Make sure that all medications, including vitamins, are stored out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Even if you are tempted to keep the medicine handy to give another dose in a few hours, don't leave it on the counter between doses. Always put medicines and vitamins away after every dose.

Have Poison Control on speed dial.

- Program the toll-free number for the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) into your home and cell phone and post it near your phone or refrigerator for the babysitter. Hopefully you'll never need it, but it's nice to be prepared.

- Poison control centers offer fast, free, confidential help in English and Spanish. Most poisonings are resolved over the phone. The number works from anywhere in the United States 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **If you suspect your child has been poisoned, call poison control. If your child has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911.**
- **Do not make the child vomit or give him anything unless directed by a professional**

Check for lead.

- Check homes build before 1978 for lead-based paint. If lead hazards are identified, test your child for lead exposure and hire a professional to control and remove lead sources safely.
- Remove any peeling paint or chewable surfaces painted with lead-based paint.
- Regularly wash your child's toys and pacifiers to reduce the risk of your child coming into contact with lead or lead-contaminated dust.
- Check www.recalls.gov for more information on product recalls involving lead-based products. Follow the recommendations to eliminate any products that may contain lead.

Install a carbon monoxide alarm and identify signs of poisoning.

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.

About Tips Provider:

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to making kids better today and healthier tomorrow. Our specialized care helps children get better faster and live healthier lives. Managing more than 850,000 patient visits annually at three hospitals and 24 neighborhood locations, Children's is the largest healthcare provider for children in Georgia and one of the largest pediatric clinical care providers in the country. Children's offers access to more than 60 pediatric specialties and programs and is ranked among the top children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report. With generous philanthropic and volunteer support, Children's has impacted the lives of children in Georgia, the United States and throughout the world. Visit www.choa.org for more information.