

# Poison Prevention



*Poisons can be found everywhere in the home, and even seemingly harmless items can become dangerous if swallowed. In the U.S., more than half of all exposures to poison occur in children younger than 6 years of age. It is important for parents to be able to recognize poisons, keep them locked up, and to know what to do if a child does come in contact with one.*

## Common Causes of Poisoning in Children

- Cosmetics and personal care items
- Medicine and vitamins
- Cleaning and laundry products, furniture polish, and lamp oil
- Car fluids - antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, and gasoline
- Bug and weed killers, fertilizers, and plants
- Batteries
- Alcohol
- Carbon monoxide and lead
- Arts and crafts supplies

## Treatment

- If your child is unconscious, not breathing, or having seizures, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately.
- If your child is breathing, but you suspect he may have swallowed something poisonous, contact the Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222. Keep this number posted by every phone and store this number in your cell phone.
- If your child has swallowed a poison, do not make him vomit and do not use syrup of ipecac or charcoal.

## Tips for a Safer Home

- Read product instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Keep poisonous substances locked up and out of reach of children.
- Install safety latches on all cabinets containing poisonous products.
- Only buy medications with safety caps on the bottles.
- Take all medications out of purses, pockets, and drawers. Keep them in a locked cabinet.
- Never refer to medications or vitamins as "candy."
- Safely dispose of all unused medications.
- Store cleaners, paints, varnishes, and pesticides in their original packaging in locked cabinets.
- Never place poisonous products in food or drink containers.
- Cosmetics can be very poisonous. Make sure they are removed from purses and secured in a locked cabinet out of reach.