

Poison Safety

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What to do if a poisoning occurs?

Remain calm.

Call the Poison Control Center, emergency room or your physician.

Have the following information ready:

- Person's age and name,
- Your name and phone number,
- Original container with labels,
- Amount involved,
- Time poisoning occurred,
- The person's symptoms.

The Poison Control Center or your physician will give you instructions on what to do next.

Remember to label poisonous products with the safety symbol "Mr. Yuk"

No! Stay Away!



First Aid

Poison in the Eye

Flood the eye with lukewarm water by pouring from a large glass 2 or 3 inches from the eye. Repeat for 5 minutes. Have person blink as much as possible while flooding eye. Do not force the eyelid open. Seek medical attention.

Inhaled Poison

Immediately get the person to fresh air. Avoid breathing fumes. Open doors and windows wide. If the person is not breathing, start artificial respiration. Seek medical attention.

Poison on the Skin

Remove contaminated clothing and flood skin with water for 10 minutes. Wash gently with soap and water and rinse.

Swallowed Poison

Medicine: Do not give anything by mouth until calling for advice.

Chemical or Household Products: Unless person is unconscious, having convulsions or cannot swallow, immediately give milk or water. Call for professional advice about whether you should make the person vomit.

Always keep a one-ounce bottle of syrup ipecac on hand. Use **ONLY** if instructed to do so by a Poison Control Center or physician.

Common Poison Label on Products:



Poison Prevention Tips

- Teach your children the four forms of poison and why they should stay away from them: Solids, Liquids, Sprays, and Invisibles.

- Lock up all medicines. Do not rely solely on child resistant containers – they are child resistant, not childproof.
- Keep cosmetics, perfumes, aftershaves, and colognes out of children’s reach. Children often are attracted to these items, but many of them contain alcohol or other harmful ingredients.
- Know the botanical names of all your houseplants, yard plants, and trees. Learn which plants are poisonous and keep them away from children.
- Teach children not to eat wild mushrooms or berries.
- Store food, medicine, and household cleaners in separate places. Always store these products in their original containers to lessen the chance of product misidentification.
- Always give medicine in a well-lit room. Check the label and dosage to be sure you are giving your child the proper medication and dosage.
- Never refer to medicine as “candy.” This only confuses your children.
- Containers should be rinsed before disposal. Do not crush, bend, or puncture containers.
- Always communicate with your family and your child’s caregiver to prevent accidental overdose of medications.
- Always empty all glasses and clean up right after parties. Keep liquor in a locked cabinet.
- When using cleaning products, do not leave them unattended, even for a second. Buckets of water filled with sweet-smelling cleaners are particularly attractive to crawling infants.
- Ninety-one percent of poison exposure occurs in the home.
- Household cleaning products are the second highest cause of child poisonings, after pharmaceuticals. Most of these poisonings occur while the cleaning products are in use. Some products, such as window washing fluid, can be fatal after only one swallow.
- As few as three ounces of hard liquor can be fatal to a child weighing 25 pounds or less.
- Most poisonings of children under six occur at mealtimes, especially right before mealtime – when adults are busy and supervision may be minimal. Children get hungry and thirsty more often than adults, and should always be supervised closely.

If you have a poison emergency, call



If the person has collapsed or is not breathing, immediately call 911.

For additional information see
 MU Guide Sheets G1918 or G1915.
 Contact your local Outreach and Extension
 Center or the MU Extension
 Rural Safety and Health Program
 at 1.800.995.8503.

Poison facts

- Over two million poison exposures will occur in the U.S. in the next 12 months. The majority of these exposures will involve children under the age of six.

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