

Holiday Decoration Safety

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Winter holidays in Minnesota often bring to mind cold snowy nights and family parties with many decorations all over the house. However, some items may cause harm if they are misused.

How can harm happen?

Most of the time harm happens when an item is not used right, or it is eaten.

What to look out for:

Mistletoe:

Mistletoe can be a wide number of different plants; some may cause harm when eaten. This can cause you to feel tired, have stomach upset, diarrhea, and trouble thinking. To stop this from happening, hang the mistletoe high up away from children and pets and make sure it is hung securely.



Spray On Fake Snow:

There are many types of fake snows, and some may be more harmful than others. It can contain methylene chloride, which can cause you to feel tired, have stomach upset, trouble breathing and headaches. Some fake snow can grow larger when they touch water. When eaten it can cause stomach upset, stomach pain and choking. Keep fake snow up and away from children. Use them in open areas with a lot of airflow and follow the directions for the fake snow.

What to do if you are exposed:

Mistletoe:

- Rinse out the mouth and a small drink of water if able
- Go to the hospital if serious effects happen or if a large amount is eaten

Spray On Fake Snow:

- Move outside and away from the source to get fresh air
- Go to the hospital if serious effects happen or if a large amount is eaten or breathed in

Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for advice

Call 911 if someone loses consciousness or has trouble breathing

Upcoming Events

- December 3: Students in Medicine Event



Did You Know?



- Child-resistant packaging does not mean the packaging is child proof.
- Child-resistant packaging is designed to be significantly more difficult for children under the age of five to open.
- Some children can open child-resistant containers.