1-800-222-1222 FOR EMERGENCIES OR QUESTIONS

MINNESOTA REGIONAL POISON CENTER

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Poison prevention antidote

November-December 2026

WWW.MNPOISON.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 7: Early Childhood Expo
- November 13: School Nurse Conference
- November 14: Health Hub Day
- November 14: Hope and Healing Expo
- November 18: Community Baby Shower
- December 5: Asian Youth with Stethoscopes

DID YOU KNOW?

Carbon monoxide (CO) can build up inside your home if exterior exhaust vents are blocked by heavy snow, ice, or drifting.

- Fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, boilers, water heaters, and gas dryers vent exhaust gases outside.
- When snow or ice blocks these pipes, the gas cannot escape and can leak or back up into your living areas.

How You Can Stay Safe

- Shovel or brush snow away from all exterior vents, gas meters, and air intakes.
- Clear snow by hand, with a broom, or using a soft brush. Avoid metal shovels or snowblowers near plastic PVC vent pipes, which can easily crack or break.
- Check vents again after heavy drifting, plowing, or additional snowfall.

Poinsettia Safety

By: Kendra Porath, Medical Student, University of Minnesota Medical School



What is a Poinsettia?

Poinsettia's (Euphorbia spp.) are a festive holiday plant well known for their bright colors. There is a long-held myth that they are deadly, but in fact, they're not poisonous at all.

Where does the myth come from?

Over a hundred years ago, a child was found dead next to a Poinsettia plant and people blamed the plant. However, researchers have done experiments to find out the poisonous dose and even after eating 500-600 leaves, there were no deaths.

The risks of Poinsettias:

Ingestion: May cause mild nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The leaves may be choking hazards for young children

Skin contact: The sap may cause skin irritation, redness, and itchiness.

Prevention tips:

Keep away from children and pets.

If you come into contact with the sap, wash the area with soap and water.

If you have any questions or concerns about holiday plants, call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222.