Poison Prevention Tips

Store Poisons Safely
• Store medicines and household products locked up, where children cannot see or reach them.
• Store poisons in their original containers.
• Use child-resistant packaging. But remember — nothing is child-proof!

Use Poisons Safely
• Read the label. Follow the directions on medicines and products.
• Are children around? Take the product or medicine with you to answer the door or the phone.
• Lock products and medicines up after using them.
• Is it medicine? Call it medicine, not candy.
• Children learn by imitation. Take your medicines where children can't watch.

Teach Children to Ask First
• Poisons can look like food or drink. Teach children to ask an adult before eating or drinking anything.

First Aid for Poisoning

Has the person collapsed or stopped breathing?
▶ Call 911 or your local emergency number right away.

Poison in the eyes?
▶ Rinse eyes with running water for 15 to 20 minutes.
▶ Call 1-800-222-1222.

Poison on the skin?
▶ Take off any clothing that the poison touched.
▶ Rinse skin with running water for 15 to 20 minutes.
▶ Call 1-800-222-1222.

Inhaled poison?
▶ Get to fresh air right away.
▶ Call 1-800-222-1222.

Swallowed the wrong medicine or too much medicine?
▶ Call 1-800-222-1222.

Swallowed something that's not food or medicine?
▶ Drink a small amount of milk or water.
▶ Call 1-800-222-1222.
When children get into household products, poison center experts are just one call away.

Poisons can hurt you — or even kill you — if you eat them, breathe them, or get them in your eyes or on your skin. The poison center can help you with questions about:

- household products
- chemicals at work or in the environment
- drugs (prescription, over-the-counter, herbal, illegal, or animal medicines)
- snake bites, spider bites, and scorpion stings.

For life-saving treatment advice about any kind of poison, call 1-800-222-1222. A specially trained nurse, pharmacist or doctor at your poison center will help. All services are free and confidential.

Poison center services are available for people with hearing problems and for non-English speakers.

When health care providers need information about treating poisonings, they also call their local poison center.

Have a question? All questions about poisons are smart questions. Ask FIRST to prevent a poisoning!