

Dangerous Household Materials

Young children get into everything. Every year thousands of children are injured by eating, breathing in or coming in contact with dangerous household materials.

One type of dangerous household item found in the home is bug and weed killers. These chemicals are harmful to children if they come in contact with the skin, or are eaten or breathed in.

Lead is another hazardous material. Contact with lead can cause lead poisoning, a harmful disease with hidden effects. Lead can be found in paint chips and in batteries.

Medicines (pills or syrups) are the cause of thousands of poisonings each year. Be sure to follow the preventive measures listed to protect your child.

These are only a few of the dangerous things found in the home. Others include:

- **Alcohol**
- **Cleaners**
- **Gasoline**
- **Antifreeze**
- **Makeup**
- **Plants**



Common Sense Tips

Most poisonings can be prevented if adults take the proper precautions.

- Keep only small amounts of medicines and cleaners in your home. Buying products in smaller size packages may cost more, but it could save your child's life.
- Do not store poisons in food or drink containers. Leave them in the container they came in, which have directions for poison emergencies. Read all labels and follow the directions.
- Be careful if you are using medicines or chemicals, like cleaners and bug killers. If you are called away while using a product, take it with you. Your child only needs a second to eat a deadly amount of a poison.
- Keep all medicines and chemicals locked away. Use a locked cabinet that is out of reach and out of sight. Your child cannot be hurt if he cannot reach the poison. Do not store chemicals under the bathroom or kitchen sink.
- Leave a window open whenever using chemicals, like cleaners. The fumes can be harmful.
- Be sure your walls, both inside and outside, are painted with lead-free paint. Your child could try to eat paint that has flaked off the walls.
- Know the names of the plants in your home. Check to find out if they are poisonous.
- In the summer, teach your child to look for signs that say that a lawn has been chemically-treated and to stay off the lawn.
- Always call medicine by the correct name. Never say that it is "candy."
- Try to not take medicine in front of your child. He may copy your actions because he wants to be like you.
- Only give medicine to the person the doctor ordered it for. Also, take medicine the way your doctor tells you to. If you have medicine left over, throw it away by flushing it down the toilet.

First Aid

If a poison is swallowed:

1. Call the Poison Control Center and do what they tell you to do.
2. Do not make the child vomit without being told to do so.

If a poison is inhaled:

1. Take the child to fresh air (outside).
2. Call the Poison Control Center and do what they tell you to do.
3. If your child is not breathing and you know CPR, begin CPR.

If a poison is on the skin:

1. Run cool water over area right away.
2. Take off any clothing that has poison on it.
3. Call the Poison Control Center and do what they tell you to do.

Be ready for an emergency. Be sure your friends, family and baby sitters know what to do if a poisoning happens.

Put these numbers by your phone.

Poison Control Center

1-800-764-7661



Fire and Police

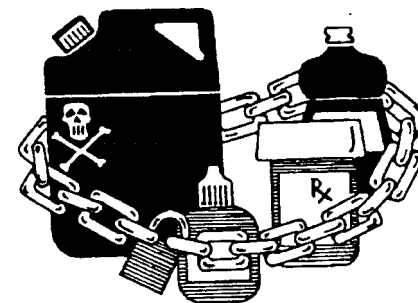
911

Always know where your child is and what he or she is doing.

Copies of this brochure are available on the Kent County Health Department web site at www.co.kent.mi.us/health/publications.htm

Poison:

Prevention and First Aid



Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503