

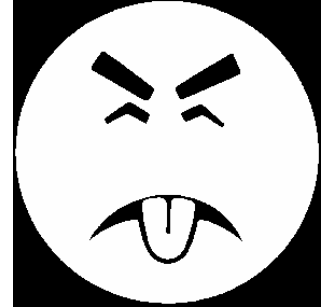


Graham Fire & Rescue

POISONING

Poisonings Kill 30 Children Annually; Cause 1 Million Calls To Poison Centers

Each year, unintentional poisonings from medicines and household chemicals kill about 30 children and prompt more than 1 million calls to the nation's poison centers. The 41st observance of National Poison Prevention Week, which is March 17-23, aims to help prevent those childhood poisonings by reminding people to check their homes now.



The three most important safety messages to prevent poisonings are:

- ✓ Use child-resistant packaging because it saves lives;
- ✓ Keep medicines and household chemicals locked up out of reach and out of sight of young children because some children can open child-resistant packaging; and
- ✓ Keep the poison control center number next to your telephone and call immediately if a poisoning occurs.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requires child-resistant packaging for 28 categories of medicines and household chemicals and is considering such packaging for a group of chemicals known as hydrocarbons. "Child resistant-packaging saves lives," said CPSC Executive Director Pamela Gilbert. "For aspirin and oral prescription medicine, special packaging has saved the lives of over 900 children since the early 1970s."

According to William W. Bradley, Chairman of the Poison Prevention Week Council, "For 41 years, National Poison Prevention Week has emphasized the responsibility of parents, grandparents, and other caregivers in preventing poisonings. Children are curious, and they act fast. So do poisons. Keep chemicals and medicines locked up out of reach and out of sight. Poisonings can, and must, be prevented."

Child-resistant packaging is not child-proof. If a young child swallows a medicine or chemical, parents must call the poison center immediately.

Here are the basic poison prevention tips that every person should check during National Poison Prevention Week:

- ✓ Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after each use.

- ✓ Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.
- ✓ Call the poison center immediately in case of poisoning. Keep on hand a bottle of ipecac syrup but use it only if the poison center instructs you to induce vomiting.
- ✓ When products are in use, never let young children out of your sight, even if you must take them along when answering the phone or doorbell.
- ✓ Keep items in original containers.
- ✓ Leave the original labels on all products, and read the label before using.
- ✓ Do not put decorative lamps and candles that contain lamp oil where children can reach them. Lamp oil can be very toxic if ingested by young children.
- ✓ Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.
- ✓ Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Refer to medicine as "medicine," not "candy."
- ✓ Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically and safely dispose of unneeded and outdated medicines.

KILLER HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

These products, some which are highly flammable, have chemicals that may cause burns or damage to the skin, eyes, respiratory tract, and other vital organs, and may cause death in a very short time. Some chemicals that may be present in the product are listed.

AIR FRESHENERS - Formaldehyde, Phenol

AMMONIA

BLEACH - WARNING: never mix bleach with ammonia as it will cause fumes which can be DEADLY.

CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY SHAMPOO

DISHWASHER DETERGENTS - Chlorine, number 1 cause of child poisonings, according to some poison centers.

DRAIN CLEANER - Lye, hydrochloric acid or trichloroethane.

FURNITURE POLISH - Petroleum Distillates

MOLD AND MILDEW CLEANERS - Sodium hypochlorite

OVEN CLEANER - Lye.

ANTIBACTERIAL CLEANERS - Triclosan.

LAUNDRY ROOM PRODUCTS - Sodium, calcium hypochlorite, Sodium Tripolyphosphate:

TOILET BOWL CLEANERS - Hydrochloric acid, Hypochlorite Bleach

PESTICIDES: Diazinon, Chlorinate Hydrocarbons, Organophosphates

FLEA POWDERS - Carbaryl, Chlordane, Dichlorophene

LICE SHAMPOO - Lindane

CAR WASH AND POLISH - Petroleum Distillates

TAR AND BUG REMOVER - Xylene, Petroleum Distillates.

For any poisoning concerns, or a free information packet, contact the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.