



Safe at Home

Poison Prevention for Children

Florida Department of Health • [FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](https://www.floridahealth.gov/COVID-19)

Every day, over 300 children in the United States are treated in an emergency department, and two children die, as a result of being poisoned.



Everyday items in your home, such as household cleaners and medicines, can be poisonous to children. Medication dosing mistakes and unsupervised ingestions are common ways that children are poisoned. Active, curious children will often investigate—and sometimes try to eat or drink—anything that they can get into.

Poison Prevention Tips

Know the number. Put the nationwide poison control center phone number, **1-800-222-1222**, on or near every telephone in your home and program it into your cell phone. Call the poison control center if you think a child has been poisoned but they are awake and alert; they can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Call 911 if you have a poison emergency and your child has collapsed or is not breathing.

Drugs and Medicines

- **Lock them up and away.** Keep medicines and toxic products, such as cleaning solutions and detergent pods, in their original packaging where children can't see or get them.
- **Read the label.** Follow label directions carefully and read all warnings when giving medicines to children.
- **Always relock the safety cap on medicine bottles.** If it has a locking cap that turns, twist it until you hear the "click" or until you can't twist anymore.
- **Monitor the use of medicines** prescribed for children and teenagers, such as medicines for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.
- **Remind guests and visitors** to keep purses, bags or coats that have medicines in them up and away and out of sight when they're in your home.

- **Don't keep it if you don't need it.** Safely dispose of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs and over the counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements. To dispose of medicines, mix them with coffee grounds or kitty litter and throw them away. You can also turn them in at a local take-back program or during National Drug Take-Back events.

Household Chemicals and Carbon Monoxide

- **Always read the label** before using a product that may be poisonous.
- **Keep chemical products in their original bottles or containers.** Do not use food containers such as cups, bottles, or jars to store chemical products such as cleaning solutions or beauty products.
- **Never mix household products together.** For example, mixing bleach and ammonia can result in toxic gases.
- **Wear protective clothing** (gloves, long sleeves, long pants, socks, shoes) if you spray pesticides or other chemicals.
- **Turn on the fan and open windows** when using chemical products such as household cleaners.



Call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222