



PREVENTING CHILDHOOD POISONING

Store potentially poisonous household products and medications locked out of children's sight and reach.

- Read labels to find out what is poisonous. Potential hazards include makeup, medicine, plants, cleaning products, pesticides, art supplies and beer, wine and liquor
- Never leave potentially poisonous household products unattended while in use.
- Be aware of poisons that may be in your handbag. Store handbags out of the reach of young children.
- Never mix cleaning products.
- Buy child-resistant packages when available. Keep products in their original packages to avoid confusion.

Keep the toll-free nationwide poison control center number (1-800-222-1222) and local emergency numbers near every telephone.

- If you suspect poisoning and a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe or is having a seizure, call 911. Otherwise, take the product to the phone and call the poison control hotline.
- Follow the operator's instructions.
- Don't make the child vomit or give him anything unless directed.

Be safe when taking or administering medication.

- Always read labels, follow directions and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages. Only use the dispensers packaged with children's medications.
- Don't take medicine or vitamins in front of kids, and don't call them "candy".
- Throw away old medicine by flushing it down a toilet.
- Tell grandparents and friends about avoiding medication poisoning when your family visits their homes.

Take precautions to avoid other poisons that may be present in the home.

- Test children for lead exposure, and test homes built before 1978 for lead-based paint. If it is found, cover the lead paint with a sealant or hire a professional abatement company to remove the paint.
- Frequently wash children's hands and faces, as well as their toys and pacifiers, to reduce the risk of ingesting lead-contaminated dust.
- Install CO alarms in every sleeping area and on all levels of your home. Check the batteries every month.
- If the alarm sounds, leave the home immediately and call for help from a neighbor's home or a cell phone outside the home.

- Ensure that space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves are vented properly and inspected annually.
- Remove a vehicle from the garage to warm it up, even if the garage door is kept open.