

Children are Curious **POISON IS DEADLY**

A Public Service Announcement from Pike County Health Department



If you think you might be poisoned and don't know what to do: Call 1-800-222-1222.

According to the CDC three hundred children are seen in the emergency room and two die as a result of poisoning in America daily. Children are naturally curious and sometimes get into things that they shouldn't. It's not just clearly marked chemicals in your home that are poisonous. Plants, medications, batteries, personal care items (such as perfume and e-cigarette liquid), herbal supplements and many other items can be deadly if ingested. Toddlers are especially at risk due to their skin absorbing chemicals more rapidly than adults or older children, and their smaller body size. Older children and teens are also at risk for poisoning, but are more likely to intentionally ingest something that is poisonous, or is poisonous if taken in too large a quantity. Some tips for preventing poisoning from healthychildren.org:

Store medicine, cleaning and laundry products, (including detergent packets) paints/varnishes and pesticides in their original packaging in locked cabinets or containers, out of sight and reach of children. It is best to use traditional liquid or powder laundry detergents instead of detergent packets until all children who live in or visit your home are at least 6 years old.

Safety latches that automatically lock when you close a cabinet door can help to keep children away from dangerous products, but there is always a chance the device will malfunction or the child will defeat it. The safest place to store poisonous products is somewhere a child can't see or reach.

Check the label each time you give a child medicine to ensure proper dosage. For liquid medicines, use the dosing device that came with the medicine. Never use a kitchen spoon. Watch the video, *The Healthy Children Show: Giving Liquid Medicine Safely*, for more information.

If you use an e-cigarette, keep the liquid nicotine refills locked up out of children's reach and only buy refills that use child-resistant packaging. A small amount of liquid nicotine spilled on the skin or swallowed can be fatal to a child. See *Liquid Nicotine Used in E-Cigarettes Can Kill Children*.

Keep natural gas-powered appliances, furnaces, and coal, wood or kerosene stoves in safe working order.

Secure remote controls, key fobs, greeting cards, and musical children's books. These and other devices may contain small button-cell batteries that can cause injury if ingested.

Know the names of all plants in your home and yard. If you have young children or pets, consider removing those that are poisonous.

Purchase and keep all medicines in containers with safety caps. Discard unused medication. Note that safety caps are designed to be child resistant but are not fully child proof.

Never place poisonous products in food or drink containers.

Never refer to medicine as "candy" or another appealing name.

Maintain working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



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The National Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) is free, confidential and open 24/7. They are there to answer your questions and concerns. They can advise you on what is poisonous and what to do if you think someone has been poisoned. If the person collapses, has a seizure, has trouble breathing or can't be awakened call 911 right away. You can also visit their website at www.poison.org. The Pike County Health Department has a supply of poison control stickers and magnets, as well as green Mr. Yuck stickers to mark items that are poisonous. Contact Stefanie Davis, Environmentalist at 573-324-2111 x113 or stop by the Health Department to pick some up. Poisoning is preventable.