

OREGON POISON CENTER

1-800-222-1222



Display Format

The following information is meant to help educators set up a display of poisonous substances commonly found in our homes. The display consists of five sections. The materials needed for each section are listed. You can make a sign for each section. Suggestions for signs head each section.

Look-alikes - Could Your Child Tell the Difference?

Items: (Any look alike items will do.)

- Apple juice *and* pine cleaners
- Mountain Dew *and* Radiator Antifreeze
- Jolt Cola *and* STP Radiator Stop Leak
- Parmesan cheese *and* scouring powder (Ajax, Comet, etc)
- Single serving bottled purple grape juice *and* Purple cough syrup

Point Out:

- These items are similar in color, size and shape.
- They have pull top rings, which are easy to open.

Caution: Empty poisonous containers by draining substance out the bottom.

These are Poisonous, Too

Items:

- Salt
- Perfume *and* after shave
- Cigarettes

Point Out:

- These items are usually not kept locked up, and are in easy reach of children.
- Too much salt can change the body's fluid balance.
- Salt water should **never** be used to induce vomiting.

Caution: Empty these containers before displaying them. Fill containers with colored water.

Display Format (cont.)

Some Containers Give Wrong Instructions

Items:

- Older products not widely available in stores anymore are still in people's homes, for example Drano, Red Devil Lye and ammonia. Many older products recommend citrus juices, oils, raw eggs, or give other incorrect advice. The antidote information should read, "give milk or water and call your local poison center."

Point Out:

- Do not follow antidote information on back of products, as it is often incorrect and out of date.
- If the products are ingested, give milk or water only and call the Poison Center.

Caution: These must never be left unattended on the display table unless absolutely empty.

Easily Confused Items

Items:

I use pills and mix them with candy, since this is impressive to parents and children alike. Some examples of pill look-alikes are:

- Motrin, Coricidin *and* M&Ms
- Sudafed *and* Red Hots
- Feen-a-Mint *and* Chiclets
- Tylenol *and* Good 'n' Plenty
- Ex-lax *and* milk chocolate

Point Out:

- Never call medicine "candy."
- This part of the display reinforces the fact that pills do look like candy and children do not know the difference.

Caution: Never leave pill look-alikes unattended on the display table.

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