

Poison Hazards That Spring Upon Us

The advent of the spring and summer months brings an increase in the incidence of poisonings in children. This problem is of great concern to the staff of the Oregon Poison Center, and they wish to caution parents on some of the potential hazards.

Decreased Supervision of Children:

With warm weather, children play outdoors more, making supervision difficult. Children are often poisoned when there is a change in household routine, such as a weekend outing, family vacation, or visitors in your home.

Pesticides:

All pesticides are poisonous and can have serious effects on people, pets and wildlife. Use proper safety methods when storing, applying or disposing of pesticides and their containers. Call the Oregon Poison Center if you have questions.

Plants and Mushrooms:

Many outdoor and indoor plants are poisonous. This includes the berries on many plants. Know the names of your plants to ensure proper identification. All yard mushrooms are considered poisonous unless positively identified otherwise by a trained mycologist.

Solvents Used in Spring Cleaning:

Can be poisonous. Follow label instructions and use them carefully.
Have good ventilation
Do not leave cleaning supplies within reach of children.

Hydrocarbons:

With warm weather, hydrocarbons in the form of gasoline, kerosene and charcoal lighter fluid makes their appearance. These can be very poisonous. Oil based paints; paint thinners and turpentine can also be harmful, even if ingested in small amounts. Every year children are poisoned when gasoline or motor oil are placed in pop bottles. Store all of these products in their original containers.

No matter how careful we are, accidents can occur.
Have the Oregon Poison Center number close, in case of an emergency.

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