Poison Prevention Tips

What Is a Poison?
A poison is something that can be harmful if swallowed, spilled on the skin, splashed in the eyes or breathed in. Children are frequently confused about what a poison is. They may know that poisons are "bad" but children do not know that something sweet smelling or sweet tasting can be a poison too.

There are many different examples of things that children may try to eat. Here is a small list.

> **Medicines**:
> - Vitamins with iron
> - Pain or fever relievers
> - Cough and cold preparations
> - Pills for depression or heart disease
>
> **Cleaners** for home, car, and clothes:
> - Toilet cleaners and drain openers
> - Laundry detergent and bleach
> - Kerosene, gasoline and lamp oils
> - Antifreeze and windshield washer fluids

Tips to Prevent Poisonings
- Buy products with child-resistant caps. But beware child-resistant caps are not CHILDPROOF. Once your child learns how to open them, these caps will not keep your child safe.
- Always tightly close caps after each use.
- Keep medicine and cleaners out of sight in cabinets with child-resistant latches.
- Be careful when using medicines and cleaners. If the phone or doorbell rings, close the cap before you answer it. Children can eat poisons in seconds.
- Do not put poison in empty food bottles - someone might eat it!
- Clean up after working around the house, car and garden. Properly dispose of leftover cleaners, sprays, and kerosene right away.
- Old medicines often stop working, but they can still poison children. Throw out expired medications. Your local pharmacist can help you with this task.
- Buy products that have a bittering agent. Poisons with a bittering agent will taste so bad that children often stop eating them.

Be ready for any emergency! Tape the poison emergency HELP number to your phone or the message area of your home.

If someone is poisoned, or you think someone has been, call the Poison Center right away. Bring the container to the phone with you, and follow the instructions from the experts at the Poison Center.

POISON
Help.
1-800-222-1222