



LOCK UP POISONS



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Office of Information and Public Affairs
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YOUNG CHILDREN WILL EAT OR DRINK ALMOST ANYTHING!



Children are curious, especially about things adults use. Just as they may mimic mom applying make-up or dad reading the newspaper, children may mimic how adults use the pretty-colored pills, liquids and containers of all kinds in their environment. These things often engage a child's natural curiosity and urge to explore.

Each year, nearly 1 million children under the age of five are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. To prevent access, keep anything that can be poisonous locked up and out of sight and use child-resistant packaging; remembering to reseal the package after every use!

Medicines, such as

Pain relievers
Cough and cold preparations
Iron-containing vitamins
Food supplements

and household substances, including

Cleaners
Cosmetics
Personal care products
Insect sprays
Paint solvents
Lighter fluids



are some of the most frequent causes of unintentional poisoning among children.

MEDICINES

Medicines are often swallowed by young children who find them where their parents or grandparents have left them – in a purse, on a nightstand, in a pill container or some other convenient place. All adults should use child-resistant packages wherever young children live or visit. If child-resistant packaging is not an option, keep medicines in a locked container, out of reach – and out of sight – of children.



HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Read the labels before using any household product and follow the directions carefully. Store household products in cabinets with child safety latches or locks.

Always resecure child-resistant packaging.

KEEP ALL PRODUCTS IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS

Never put kerosene, antifreeze, bleach, paints or solvents in cups, glasses, milk or soft drink bottles or other containers used for food or drinks.

Never transfer dangerous products to a bottle without a child-resistant closure.

KEEP FOODS AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS SEPARATE

Cleaning fluids, detergents, lye, soap powders, insecticides and other everyday household products should be stored away from food and medications. Death could be the result of mistaken product identity.

NEVER CALL FLAVORED MEDICINE "CANDY"

When left alone, children may look for and find the bottle and eat or drink its contents.



TO REDUCE THE RISK OF POISONING, BE AWARE

Be sure to keep household products and medicines out of sight of children in a cabinet or closet that locks or has a child-resistant latch.

Ensure that medicines and all household products remain in their original containers – never transfer to bottles, cups or other non-child-resistant containers.

Ask for and use household products and medicines in child-resistant packaging. Resecure the safety feature carefully after each use.

When storing household products, be sure to choose a location other than where foods and medicines are stored.

Avoid taking medications when children can see you because they tend to imitate adults.

Refer to medicines by their proper names. Medicine is not “candy.”

Ensure that you read the label before using a product.

***If you suspect that a poisoning incident has occurred:
Immediately call the Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.***

Contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
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4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814
Send an email to info@cpsc.gov
or call CPSC’s Hotline at (800)-638-2772.

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