

The Ruth A. Lawrence Poison and Drug Information Center *NEWSLETTER*

Spring
2006

National Poison Prevention Week March 19 ~ 25, 2006

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

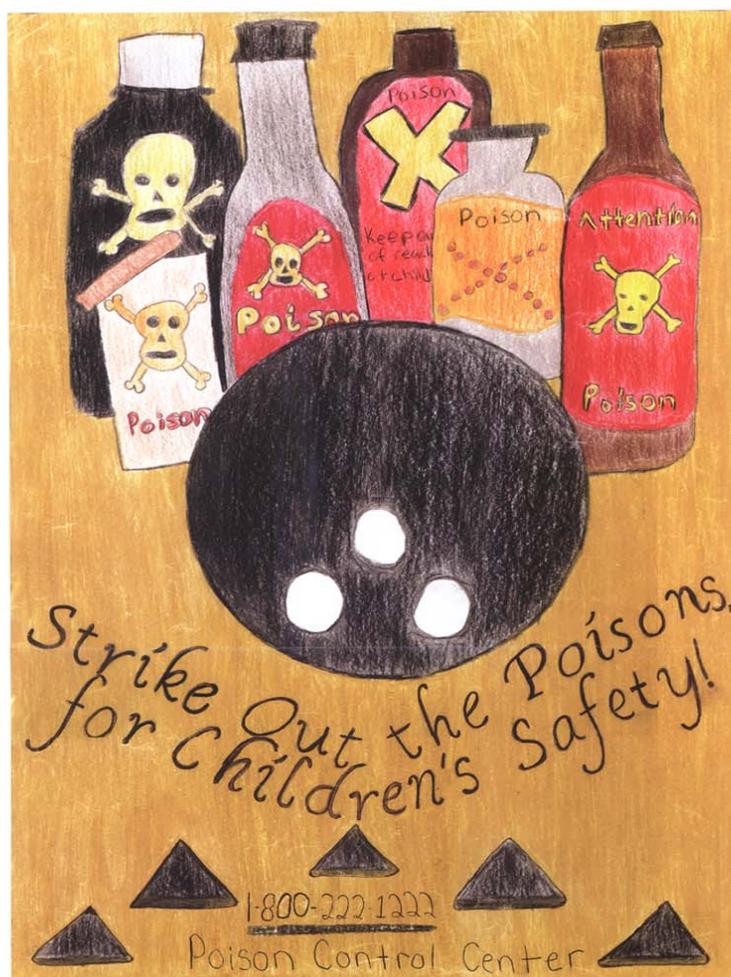
Don't forget to
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website...

www.fingerlakespoison.org

Inside This
Issue...

Poison Prevention
Tips for the Home

Find ways to keep
each room in
your home poison
safe!



CHILDREN ACT FAST... SO DO POISONS!

POISON HOTLINE: 1-800-222-1222

**National Poison Prevention Week
March 19-25, 2006**

Poster design by: Mariel Sikes (11 years old)
Submitted by: Nebraska Regional Poison Center

POISON PREVENTION WEEK COUNCIL
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Poison Prevention Tips

Every year poisonings result in nearly 900,000 visits to emergency rooms and some 1,100 deaths. The overwhelming majority of poisonings occur at home. Many of these poisonings can be safely handled at home if you call the nationwide poison control center [1-800-222-1222](tel:1-800-222-1222). Many common household products can be poisonous including pesticides, household cleaners, furniture polish, lighter fluids, medicines, and supplements containing iron.

Some tips to keep your family safe...

- § Keep the nationwide poison control center's number, [1-800-222-1222](tel:1-800-222-1222) and your doctor's phone number handy.
- § Keep products in original containers with labels and out of the reach of children.
- § Get down to a child's height and look at potential hazards from their point of view.
- § Make sure children wash hands after using the bathroom and before eating.
- § If your children are in day care, check where the day care provider keeps cleaning products, medicines and other potentially hazardous products to make sure these products are locked up and out of children's reach.
- § Read the label and follow directions and precautions for safe and effective use, storage, and first aid.
- § Use hazardous products away from children, toys, food, and pets, as directed.
- § Store products out of the reach of children; even if you don't have small children. Many poisonings happen when children are visiting homes where no children live.
- § Properly dispose of unused or unnecessary household products and unused or expired medicines.
- § Check the playground equipment where your children play to be sure that none of the wood has been treated with potentially hazardous chemicals.
- § Induce vomiting only if a physician or a poison control center instructs you to do so.
- § If a household chemical has been ingested, call the poison control center [1-800-222-1222](tel:1-800-222-1222) immediately. Have the label ready when you call.

SOURCE: National Safety Council

Poisons: Room by Room

You can keep yourself and family members safer by being aware of potential hazards and observing these suggestions on ways to poison-proof your home. Try going through your home by bending down to a child's level and looking at everything from their point of view.



PICTURE SOURCE: EPA.gov

Bathroom

Some items that might be found in the bathroom include medicines; cosmetics, including nail and hair care products, toothpaste with fluoride, and perfume; tile cleaner; toilet bowl cleaners; bathroom deodorizers; mouthwash; and other personal hygiene products.

- § Have a child-proof section that locks. Even if your medicine cabinet is high up, youngsters are inquisitive and avid climbers. They can easily reach a cabinet by climbing from the toilet (or other convenient object) to the sink and thus reach into the cabinet.
- § Keep medication lids tightly closed. A child-resistant cap is meaningless if not properly fastened after each use.
- § Avoid taking medication in front of a child or referring to pills as candy. Kids often mimic adults. Also, something that tastes awful to an adult may not faze a small child.
- § For older children, set a good example by always reading all labels on potentially hazardous products.
- § Always follow the recommended dosage set forth on the label or by your doctor for all medications.
- § Some mouthwashes contain enough alcohol to poison small children. Consider alternative products.
- § Some disinfectants and toilet bowl cleaners are dangerously caustic and capable of burning tissue if ingested.

Bedroom

Some items that might be found in the bedroom include mothballs, cosmetics, hair sprays, perfumes, colognes, nail polish remover, and medicines.

- § Mothballs and crystals should be hung in containers. If such products are used in closets or chests, they should be out of the reach of children.
- § If children are present, it is best if personal care items are kept out of their reach. Hair spray, cologne, perfumes, fingernail polish remover, fingernail glue remover, and astringents should be kept where children can't get into them.
- § Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped while using. Do not leave the unattended container uncapped for even "just a minute" if children are present.
- § Use traps, baits or gels instead of pesticides sprays and foggers to minimize your family's exposure to potentially toxic chemicals.

continued on next page...

Living Room

Although there are not as many items of concern in the living room, one should be aware of items brought in by guests.

- § Pay attention to visitors. People who visit may carry medications in coat pockets and purses, which are potential hunting grounds for a curious child. Hang garments and store purses where children are not likely to get at them.
- § Lead poisoning is a serious medical problem. Children may be exposed to different lead sources in your home. Small children may chew on windowsills, eat paint chips or suck on their hands, exposing themselves to lead dust. Older furniture, such as cribs, playpens, chairs, etc., and also painted toys may contain lead-based paint.
- § Another potential source of poisoning for small children are carpet cleaners because they frequently play on the carpet. Toys and hands may come in contact with cleaner and be transferred to their mouth.
- § Pesticides can accumulate in carpets and other porous surfaces when they are tracked into the house. Avoid this by having family members and guests remove their shoes at the front door. Consider hard wood, tile or linoleum floors as an alternative to carpets.



Kitchen

Some items that might be found in the kitchen include dishwashing detergent, liquid dish soap, scouring soap, disinfectants, window cleaners, oven cleaners, medicines, vitamins, furniture polishes, drain cleaners/openers, and ammonia.

- § Check under the sink and low cabinet shelves. Look for products that could be hazardous when accessible to young children. These could include such items as bleaching agents, bug spray, rust removers, drain cleaners, ammonia, oven cleaners, detergents, furniture polish, floor wax, metal polish, wax remover, and wall/floor/toilet bowl cleaners. If products cannot be moved, install safety latches on the lower cupboard doors to keep children out.
- § Even food extracts, such as vanilla and almond which may contain alcohol, can be harmful to children.
- § Cleaning compounds and foods should never be stored on the same shelf. One item might be mistaken for another.
- § Keep all substances in their original containers. Using beverage bottles or cans for storing pesticides, cleaning fluids, liquid floor wax, and other household mixtures is very hazardous. Children, and even adults, might mistake the contents for the original beverage. Also, labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.



Laundry Room

Some items that might be found in the laundry room include laundry detergent, bleach, fabric softener, stain removers, and dye.

- § Store chemicals up high (out of the reach of children).
- § Install safety latches on the cupboard doors to keep children out.
- § Keep all substances in their original containers. Using beverage bottles or cans for storing detergents can be hazardous. Also, labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.
- § Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped while using. Do not leave the unattended container uncapped for even "just a minute" if children are present.

Garage

Some items that might be found in the garage include gasoline, kerosene, car wax/soaps, weed killers/pesticides, paint, windshield washer fluid, and antifreeze.

- § Store chemicals up high (out of the reach of children).
- § Install safety latches on the cupboard doors to keep children out.
- § Keep all substances in their original containers. Labels on original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product.
- § Clean up spills and leaks immediately and store products properly.
- § Get rid of old pesticides that may no longer be registered for residential use, Examples of once popular household pesticides that have been phased out by EPA include chlorpyrifos (sold under the brand name Dursban) and diazinon. Contact your local hazardous waste office for proper disposal information.



Please join us in welcoming...



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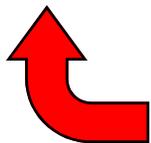
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Project Manager, Regional Resource Center for the Finger Lakes Region. This center has been in existence for 3 years, but has recently been put under the auspices of the RALPDIC

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