

“POISON PREVENTION”

Poison Prevention Week (March 19-25) was established to promote safety from unintentional poisonings in both the home and the community. It's sponsored by The National Poison Prevention Week Council, a group of more than 30 national organizations, including The Soap and Detergent Association, with an interest in an commitment to programs aimed at preventing unintentional poisonings.

“Children Act Fast....So Do Poisons!” is the basic theme of Poison Prevention Week. It takes only a few minutes for a child to grab and swallow something that could be poisonous. And the average home is full of chemicals, medicines and cleaning supplies that can be potential hazards for children.

BE ALERT

Take away the opportunity and you've automatically reduced the chance for an accidental poisoning when small children are around.

- **Schedule routine cleaning around the kid's routines**, such as nap time or when they aren't at home.
- **Don't be distracted when you're cleaning.** Keep your attention on the tasks at hand and the children around you. Save activities like talking on a cell phone, conversing with another adult in the room or “listening” to the TV for another time.
- **Don't leave children unattended around cleaning products.** If you need to answer the doorbell or the phone, take the child with you.
- **Don't leave cleaning buckets containing liquid unattended.** Besides the obvious chance of spilling, slipping and SIPPING, there's the fact that toddlers are “top heavy.” If they topple into a bucket, even one with a very small amount of liquid, they could drown because they can't pull themselves up.

STORE SMART

Because children are naturally curious, the danger doesn't end when the cleaning is finished.

- **Close cleaning product caps securely.** Even child-resistant packaging doesn't work if the container isn't properly closed.
- **Lock products up.** Store them in a location that's away from children, pets and food. Install child resistant locks on cabinets and doors.
- **Keep cleaning products in their original containers.** If an accident occurs, the label should provide information concerning the product's contents and advice on what immediate first-aid to perform.
- **Carefully dispose of empty cleaning containers.** Replace the caps, then discard in a sealed recycling bin or garbage container that's safe from exploring children

and pets.

OTHER TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Conduct routine safety checks in your home to prevent accidents.
- Have child safety locks installed on cabinets if you have young children in your home or if there are children who visit your home frequently.
- Make sure that potentially dangerous products have child resistant closures. Keep such products out of reach of young children — preferably locked up and stored in high places.
- Keep all household products in their original packages. Packaging includes useful first aid information in the event of accidental exposure or ingestion. Do not store cleaners in cups, soda bottles, cans or bowls, which children associate with eating and drinking.
- Do not let your attention be diverted when using household chemical products, electrical appliances, power tools, etc.
- If a spillage of any type occurs, clean it up immediately.
- Never leave a young child unsupervised near or in a bathtub, swimming pool, hot tub, sink or buckets containing liquid.
- Never give a child (or yourself) medicine in the dark.
- Check with your physician or Poison Control Center to see if your household and garden plants are poisonous.
- Use safety plugs in electrical outlets to reduce the possibility of shocks.
- Turn pot handles away from a stove's edge.

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