

# Poison Safety



# We Care About Your Safety

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, millions of people are unintentionally poisoned every year. Although children under six years old are at risk, the majority of poisoning fatalities occur in 20-59 year old individuals.

Poisons can hurt you — or even kill you — if you eat them, breathe them, or get them in your eyes or on your skin. Products and medicines can hurt you if they are used the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person.

Please read through the information carefully and be sure to keep it readily accessible should a problem occur. By being informed, you will be better able to prevent an incident from turning into a fatal disaster

Honeywell and First Alert Professional Security Systems are committed to public safety. We manufacture electronic security and fire detection systems that are protecting homes and businesses worldwide. That is why we decided to produce this informative booklet, to help the people we meet every day prevent a poisoning incident.

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# What is a Poison?

Any substance that can cause harmful effects if used in the wrong way or in the wrong amount can be a poison! This includes medicines, chemicals, household products, the venom of certain insects and snakes and even some plants. Poisons can be absorbed into the body when swallowed, inhaled, when contact is made with the eyes or skin, or when injected under the skin.

## Who Can Be Poisoned?

No one is immune from poisoning, and small children are especially at risk. Children are naturally curious. They cannot tell the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous substances, and they can put everything within reach into their mouths. They also imitate adults whom they see using medicines.

Older children and adults are poisoned by taking too much medicine or the wrong medicine, inhaling fumes at home or on the job, splashing certain substances into their eyes or on their skin, and being bitten or stung by an insect, snake or other animal. Since most poisonings are unintentional, preventing them means taking some precautions.



The information contained in this booklet is intended to increase your awareness of potential poisons in and around your home. We want to alert you to especially dangerous poison hazards. You'll also learn the best course of action to take if a poisoning does occur. Keep this information nearby for quick reference in case you or a family member become a victim of poisoning.

# Prevent Poisonings



## How Can I Prevent Poisonings in My Home?

- Store all medicines and household products in their original containers.
- Use child-resistant packages for medicines and potentially dangerous household products. Encourage older adults who spend time with children to use child-resistant packaging. Remember, these packages and caps are NOT child-proof!
- Lock medicines and products out of sight and reach of children.
- Teach young children to ask an adult before putting things in their mouths.
- When giving or taking medicine, be sure to read the label each time.
- Follow product label warnings about mixing different products together, being in a well ventilated area, or wearing gloves.
- Never leave children alone with household products or medications. If you're using a product, take the child with you if stopping to answer the door or phone. Most poisonings occur when the product is in use.

# Dangerous Household Poisons

## Medicines of All Kinds



Medicines taken by older adults for chronic health problems, e.g., heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes, can be especially dangerous to children and adults if not taken properly. Iron pills and pain relievers can be very dangerous in overdose situations and especially when ingested by children. Cough and cold remedies can also cause problems when children take more than the recommended dosage for their height and weight.

## Cleaning Products

Common household cleaning products are a leading cause of unintentional poisonings of children. Those that are especially dangerous are ones that can cause chemical burns, such as drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners and laundry detergent.

## Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

Permanent wave neutralizers and hair straighteners can burn the eyes and skin. Mouthwash and perfume contain alcohol, which is dangerous if swallowed. Some nail care products can also be poisonous if ingested.



## Household and Auto Maintenance Supplies

Gasoline, kerosene, motor oil and paint thinner are dangerous because they are easily coughed into the lungs when someone tries to swallow them. Antifreeze and windshield washer solution are dangerous to swallow and their sweet taste makes them appealing to children and pets.

## Pesticides, Including Lawn and Garden Chemicals

Many chemicals used to control insects, rodents and weeds are as toxic to humans as they are to their intended victims. When ingested or inhaled in small amounts, most are capable of producing illness. Many of these products are poisonous if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Avoid using products that require leaving powder or pellets in areas where pets or children may have access to them.



## Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. You can't see or smell carbon monoxide but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may resemble the flu and include headache, nausea, vomiting and drowsiness. In addition to making sure that your fuel-burning appliances are working properly, it is a good idea to install carbon monoxide detectors in your home as a backup to making sure the appliances are working properly.

## Alcohol

Alcohol found in beverages, mouthwash, perfumes and aftershave lotions is a dangerous poison for children. Small amounts can slow down their breathing and heart rate, cause seizures, coma or even kill them. Since children imitate adults, alcohol at parties can pose a real hazard. Watch children closely at adult parties and clear the "empty" glasses and cans immediately. Use child resistant closures on mouthwash bottles. Lock alcoholic beverages, mouthwash and other alcohol-containing products out of sight and reach of children.



# Dangerous Household Poisons



## Plants and Wild Mushrooms

Some indoor and outdoor plants can pose a hazard to curious youngsters. Berries and wild mushrooms pose the greatest outdoor hazards to curious children. Philodendron and Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane) are indoor plants that can cause pain and swelling in children and pets who nibble on them. Adults are poisoned by eating plants and mushrooms they have mistaken for edible species.

Teach young children to ask before putting things into their mouths. Never eat wild mushrooms unless they have been identified by an expert. Learn the correct botanical names of your house plants, garden plants and trees. Contact your poison center for a list of poisonous and non-poisonous plants common to your area of the country.

## Season Changes and Holidays

Specific times of the year bring a variety of potential poisons. Before allowing children to indulge in Halloween “treats,” inspect them to be sure that wrappers are intact. Discard non-commercial treats – fruits, homemade goods, etc. During winter holidays avoid decorating with holly or mistletoe berries. Be sure that gifts intended for older children and adults are placed where small children can’t reach them.





# Food Poisoning



Storing food at the wrong temperature, not scrubbing knives, utensils and cutting boards after cutting raw meat and poultry and not carefully washing hands before handling or preparing food can cause food poisoning. Symptoms of food poisoning may vary but often include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms may begin immediately or may not occur for more than a day or two.

## Follow These Food Safety Tips:



- Counter tops, utensils and hands should be washed with warm, soapy water prior to and after food preparation
- Thaw meat and poultry in the refrigerator, not at room temperature
- Avoid leaving perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than two hours
- Do not use canned foods with bulging lids or cracks
- Thoroughly cook all meat, poultry, seafood and eggs
- Keep picnic foods in an ice chest or cooler, out of direct sunlight, until serving time

## What Do I Need to Keep at Home for First Aid Poisoning?

Have the poison center emergency phone number on your phone with other emergency numbers. You can find your local number inside the front of your telephone book with other emergency numbers, or log on to the American Association of Poison Control Centers' website at [www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org). You can also call the poison center to get phone stickers and poison prevention information.

# What is a Poison Center?

**Poison centers are emergency telephone services.**



The doctors, nurses and pharmacists at your poison center are experts in the treatment of all kinds of poison emergencies. Call the poison center immediately after a poisoning! You will get immediate treatment advice. Most of the time, the problem can be handled on the spot, right over the telephone. The specialist in poison information will tell you how to treat the poisoning, then stay in touch by phone to be sure that everything is going well. If you do need to go to a hospital, the poison center will call ahead to tell the doctors and nurses how to treat you.

## What Should I Do If a Poisoning Occurs?

If the victim is unconscious, not breathing or having seizures, call **911** immediately. Otherwise, try to locate the poison and call **Poison Control at (800) 222-1222**. This is a United States nationwide number. By calling this number, you will be automatically forwarded to your local poison center. Alternatively, you can call 911 or your local emergency department for the number of a poison center near you.



# Poison Checklist

## Swallowed Poisons

Do not give the victim anything to eat or drink before calling the poison center or a doctor. Call the poison center immediately. Once commonly used to induce vomiting, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Syrup of Ipecac is no longer recommended for routine use for poisonings. Call the poison center immediately for advice on what to do if a poison has been ingested.

## Inhaled Poisons

Move the victim to fresh air if you can do so safely. Call the poison center.

## Poisons in the Eye

Rinse eyes with running water 15 to 20 minutes. Call the the poison center immediately.

## Poisons on the Skin

Remove contaminated clothing and rinse the skin with water for 10 minutes. Call the poison center.



Be sure that the following especially dangerous poisons are locked up out of sight and reach of children.

### KITCHEN

- vitamins and iron pills
- dishwasher detergent
- drain opener
- oven cleaner
- medicines
- furniture polish



### AROUND THE HOUSE

- alcohol
- tobacco products
- pesticides (ant traps, insecticides, mouse and rat poison)
- lamp oil
- hobby and craft supplies
- window cleaner

### LAUNDRY

- detergents
- stain removers

### BEDROOM

- medicines
- perfume and aftershave

### BATHROOM

- medicines, mouthwash and mouth rinse
- perfume and aftershave lotion
- rubbing alcohol
- toilet bowl and tile cleaner, hair straightener
- permanent wave solutions
- hair remover
- nail polish and nail glue remover

### GARAGE/OUTDOOR AREAS

- gasoline
- kerosene
- motor oil
- antifreeze
- windshield washer solution
- garden products
- paint thinners
- pool chemicals
- rust removers
- heavy duty cleaning products

Developed with information from:

American Association of Poison Control Centers

American Academy of Pediatrics

Purchasing a security system for your home or business is an important decision. Start by choosing a First Alert Professional or Honeywell authorized dealer who will provide the best products and services.

Authorized dealers own and operate security businesses in the communities they serve and are dedicated to promoting life safety. They are hand-picked to represent First Alert Professional and Honeywell security systems exclusively and are trained by the most experienced security professionals in the industry.

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October 2008 FA/PSNSAFEB  
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