

Western Australian Poisons Information Centre



Swallowed
Inhaled
In the Eye
On the Skin
Poisons in the Home



Western Australian Poisons Information Centre

Each year hundreds of children need medical attention for poisoning from products commonly found around the home. Most accidental poisonings occur in children less than five years of age, with children aged one to three most at risk. These toddlers are inquisitive, highly mobile and tend to put things in their mouth. The most common product involved in poisoning cases is paracetamol (a common painkiller found in almost every household).

What Can I do to Prevent Poisonings

Check every room in your house for poisonous products

Don't take medications in front of children.

Always tightly close and put away medicines and poisons after use.

Install child resistant mechanisms on all doors where poisons or medicines are stored

Don't call medicines lollies and before administering any medication, read the label and use only as directed.

Never transfer poisons to another container, especially drink or food containers.

Unpack shopping bags immediately and store all medicines and poisons in original containers out of sight and reach of children

Return expired medicines, or ones that are no longer needed, to your local pharmacy for disposal.

Always store poisons away from food products.

Never take or give medicines in the dark.

When should you ring the Poisons Information Centre?

For up-to-date management advice.

When someone eats, drinks or inhales a suspected or known poison or gets a poison on the skin or in the eyes.

Even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning

When someone is bitten or stung by reptiles, spiders, insects or marine animals.



Common poisons that can be dangerous to children and adults include:

Medicines

- Prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, herbal and homoeopathic products.

Household products

- Cleaning products, including bleaches, detergents for the kitchen, bathroom and toilet.
- Health and beauty products, including nail polish and remover, hair dyes, mouthwash, toothpaste, deodorant, perfume and aftershave.
- All types of batteries, including button batteries
- Cigarettes

Garage/shed products

- Insecticides and herbicides, including insect sprays, rat and mouse baits and pellets and Weed Killers
- Handyman/building products, pool chemicals, fertilisers, paints and paint thinners, petrol, antifreeze and degreasers.

Plants

- Trees, flowers, berries, mushrooms and the sap of some plants.

In Case of Poisoning Telephone Poisons information 13 11 26

Swallowed

Immediately rinse the mouth and call Poisons Information for further advice.
Do NOT induce vomiting.

Inhaled

Immediately get the patient to fresh air.
Loosen any tight clothing on neck.
Open doors and windows, if indoors.

In the Eye

Irrigate the eye, with a slow gentle stream of water from a jug or cup. Allow the stream to flow from the inner corner across the eye to the outer corner.

Call 13 11 26 for management advice.

On the Skin

Remove contaminated clothing and flood the skin with water.
Wash gently with soap and water then rinse with water.

Bites and Stings

Call 13 11 26 for management advice

Poisons Information

13 11 26

24 hours per day

