

Make your home a poison-safe zone!
Keep all household poisons...



BC Poisoning Statistics:

- In 2010, there were 100 hospitalizations in children ages 0-14 years, of which 72% were in children under 5 years
- In 2009, there were almost 160 emergency visits to the BC Children's Hospital, of which 45% were in children under 5 years
- In 2008, the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre received almost 12,000 calls involving children less than 13 years. Of these, 92% were for children less than 6 years

Sources of Data: BCIRPU iDOT, Discharge Abstract Database, Ministry of Health
Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP),
BC Children's Hospital
BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

CHILDHOOD
POISONINGS ARE
PREVENTABLE!

What Every Caregiver Needs to Know...

1. Keep all potential poisons locked up and out of reach of children.
2. Children under six years of age are those most likely to be poisoned.
3. The most common causes of poisoning in children are medications, cleaning products and other everyday household items.
4. Regularly gather expired and unused medications and take them to a pharmacy for proper disposal or visit the Proper Use and Disposal of Medications section of the Health Canada website (www.hc-sc.gc.ca).
5. If you suspect that your child has been poisoned, call your area Poison Control Centre.

Please visit the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre at dpic.org or call their 24 hr Poison Control Centre at 604-682-5050 or 1-800-567-8911

Medication Tips

Use child-resistant caps for added security

In addition to storing medication in a locked cabinet or closet, purchase medication containers with child-resistant caps whenever possible.

Don't rely on child-resistant packaging alone

Bear in mind that child resistant doesn't mean childproof. A determined child may find a way to open even the most secure bottle caps.

Keep medication in its original container

Don't switch containers for pills and liquids, or use medication if the container doesn't have a label or the label isn't legible.

Take medication with you if you're called away

Don't leave the container behind where your child could get a hold of it.

Replace lids and return medication to its storage place

Never leave medication out in the open unattended – even for a minute.

Do not refer to medication as candy

Getting your child to take his medication by making him think it's candy can be very dangerous because most children will seek out candy. Call it by its proper name.

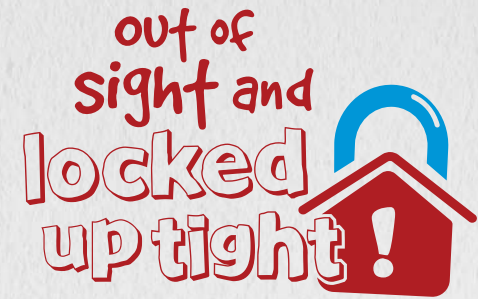
Be careful of purses and bags

Keep purses, overnight bags and suitcases out of your child's reach, as these may contain medication.

Unpack medication from grocery bags first

A bottle of coated pills can look like candy to a young child. Remove medication from grocery bags and store it safely in case your child starts investigating the bags.

Remember to keep all household poisons...



Additional resources

Safe Kids Canada

www.safekidscanada.ca

Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres

www.capcc.ca

BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit

www.injuryresearch.bc.ca

For more information about responsible use of over-the-counter medications please visit www.tylenol.ca/getreliefresponsibly



BC INJURY research and prevention unit

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