

Parents and caregivers urged to keep laundry capsules safely away from children

Accord Australasia, the national industry body for laundry detergent manufacturers in Australia, adds its voice to renewed calls by the ACCC for safe use and storage of laundry capsules so as to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for young children.

ACCC's consumer awareness message this week is part of an international campaign by safety regulators. This latest campaign aims to focus the attention of parents and caregivers on the importance of being careful when using and storing laundry capsules.

Campaigns like this provide timely warnings and can help avoid incidents and possible injury. Experience both here and overseas has shown that laundry capsules, when stored inappropriately, can be attractive to young children.

Our industry places the highest value on product safety. And for this reason we have engaged collaboratively with ACCC since 2012 on the safety of laundry capsules. Arising from this collaboration, Accord developed a detailed Industry Guideline for laundry capsules in 2013. The Guideline can be viewed at http://www.accord.asn.au/members/resources/submissions/accord_public_statements/australian_industry_guideline.

Liquid laundry detergent capsules have been on the Australian market for some years now and provide convenience, as well as the environmental benefit of not over-dosing your daily wash. They also offer the benefits of easy laundry dosing for some who may have difficulties, including the elderly and disabled.

As part of this latest safety awareness campaign parents and caregivers are reminded of the following precautions:

Store safely:

- Store laundry liquid capsules up high and out of reach of children.
- If products must be stored in low cupboards, ensure these are secured with safety latches or locks.
- Keep capsules/packets in their original container, fully closed between uses.

Use safely:

- Carefully read the labels on the packaging.
- Do not let children handle the laundry capsules.
- Do not use the capsules/packets while children are close by and do not allow or invite children to manipulate them.
- Do not leave the capsules/packets outside their container.
- Close the container lid properly after every use.

In case of a child's accidental exposure:

- If the capsule/packet is put in the mouth, rinse the child's mouth and face thoroughly.
- Do not induce vomiting.
- If a child has capsule liquid close to eyes or on hands, rinse carefully with plenty of water.
- Call a doctor, or a Poisons Information Centre (13 11 26) or go to the medical emergency department.

The safety of children is of paramount importance and Accord has published general guidance for families on children and the safe storage of household products:

http://www.accord.asn.au/public_information_submission/children_and_safe_storage.

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16 March 2015



